

**GENERAL
AWARENESS**

**CAPSULE
FOR**



**GIC
ASSISTANT
MANAGER &**

SIDBI

Exam 2024-25



Contents for GA Capsule for GIC Assistant Manager and SIDBI Exam 2024-25

Most Important Current Affairs	8
➤ Most Important Current Affairs of October 2024	8
➤ Most Important Current Affairs of September 2024	21
➤ Most Important Current Affairs of August 2024	33
➤ Most Important Current Affairs of July 2024	40
➤ Most Important Current Affairs of June 2024	58
National Current Affairs	67
➤ National Current Affairs of December 2024	67
➤ National Current Affairs of November 2024	72
➤ National Current Affairs of October 2024	81
➤ National Current Affairs of September 2024	83
➤ National Current Affairs of August 2024	87
➤ National Current Affairs of July 2024	89
➤ National Current Affairs of June 2024	92
International Current Affairs	94
➤ International Current Affairs of December 2024	94
➤ International Current Affairs of November 2024	96
➤ International Current Affairs of October 2024	99
➤ International Current Affairs of September 2024	102
➤ International Current Affairs of August 2024	103
➤ International Current Affairs of July 2024	104
➤ International Current Affairs of June 2024	106
Current Affairs Related to States in India	109
➤ Current Affairs Related to States in India of October 2024	109
➤ Current Affairs Related to States in India of September 2024	112
➤ Current Affairs Related to States in India of August 2024	113
➤ Current Affairs Related to States in India of July 2024	114
➤ Current Affairs Related to States in India of June 2024	117
Union Territories of India	119
➤ Union Territories of India of October 2024	119
➤ Union Territories of India of July 2024	119





New Appointments: National & International	119
➤ New Appointments: National & International of December 2024	119
➤ New Appointments: National & International of November 2024	120
➤ New Appointments: National & International of October 2024	122
➤ New Appointments: National & International of September 2024	123
➤ New Appointments: National & International of August 2024	124
➤ New Appointments: National & International of July 2024	125
➤ New Appointments: National & International of June 2024	126
Agreements/Memorandum of Understandings	127
➤ Agreements/Memorandum of Understandings of December 2024	127
➤ Agreements/Memorandum of Understandings of November 2024	127
➤ Agreements/Memorandum of Understandings of October 2024	129
➤ Agreements/Memorandum of Understandings of September 2024	130
➤ Agreements/Memorandum of Understandings of August 2024	131
➤ Agreements/Memorandum of Understandings of July 2024	132
➤ Agreements/Memorandum of Understandings of June 2024	132
Banking Current Affairs	133
➤ Banking Current Affairs of December 2024	133
➤ Banking Current Affairs of November 2024	134
➤ Banking Current Affairs of October 2024	139
➤ Banking Current Affairs of September 2024	142
➤ Banking Current Affairs of August 2024	144
➤ Banking Current Affairs of July 2024	149
➤ Banking Current Affairs of June 2024	152
Economy/Financial Current Affairs	157
➤ Economy/Financial Current Affairs of December 2024	157
➤ Economy/Financial Current Affairs of November 2024	159
➤ Economy/Financial Current Affairs of October 2024	161
➤ Economy/Financial Current Affairs of September 2024	162
➤ Economy/Financial Current Affairs of August 2024	163
➤ Economy/Financial Current Affairs of July 2024	163
➤ Economy/Financial Current Affairs of June 2024	164





Business Current Affairs	165
➤ Business Current Affairs of October 2024	165
➤ Business Current Affairs of September 2024	166
➤ Business Current Affairs of August 2024	166
➤ Business Current Affairs of July 2024	168
➤ Business Current Affairs of June 2024	168
Defense Current Affairs	170
➤ Defense Current Affairs of December 2024	170
➤ Defense Current Affairs of November 2024	171
➤ Defense Current Affairs of October 2024	173
➤ Defense Current Affairs of September 2024	174
➤ Defense Current Affairs of August 2024	176
➤ Defense Current Affairs of July 2024	176
➤ Defense Current Affairs of June 2024	178
Awards & Recognition	179
➤ Awards & Recognition of December 2024	179
➤ Awards & Recognition of November 2024	182
➤ Awards & Recognition of October 2024	187
➤ Awards & Recognition of September 2024	188
➤ Awards & Recognition of August 2024	188
➤ Awards & Recognition of July 2024	189
➤ Awards & Recognition of June 2024	190
Summits Events Festivals (National/International)	191
➤ Summits Events Festivals (National/International) of December 2024	191
➤ Summits Events Festivals (National/International) of November 2024	192
➤ Summits Events Festivals (National/International) of October 2024	195
➤ Summits Events Festivals (National/International) of September 2024	196
➤ Summits Events Festivals (National/International) of August 2024	197
➤ Summits Events Festivals (National/International) of July 2024	198
➤ Summits Events Festivals (National/International) of June 2024	199





List/Indexes (Ranks & Reports)	200
➤ List/Indexes (Ranks & Reports) on December 2024	200
➤ List/Indexes (Ranks & Reports) on November 2024	201
➤ List/Indexes (Ranks & Reports) on October 2024	208
➤ List/Indexes (Ranks & Reports) on September 2024	208
➤ List/Indexes (Ranks & Reports) on August 2024	209
➤ List/Indexes (Ranks & Reports) on July 2024	210
➤ List/Indexes (Ranks & Reports) on June 2024	210
Books & Authors	211
➤ Books & Authors of December 2024	211
➤ Books & Authors of November 2024	211
➤ Books & Authors of October 2024	211
➤ Books & Authors of September 2024	211
➤ Books & Authors of August 2024	212
➤ Books & Authors of July 2024	212
➤ Books & Authors of June 2024	212
Sports Current Affairs	212
➤ Sports Current Affairs of December 2024	212
➤ Sports Current Affairs of November 2024	213
➤ Sports Current Affairs of October 2024	216
➤ Sports Current Affairs of September 2024	219
➤ Sports Current Affairs of August 2024	220
➤ Sports Current Affairs of July 2024	221
➤ Sports Current Affairs of June 2024	223
Science & Technology	225
➤ Science & Technology of December 2024	225
➤ Science & Technology of November 2024	226
➤ Science & Technology of October 2024	227
➤ Science & Technology of September 2024	228
➤ Science & Technology of August 2024	229
➤ Science & Technology of July 2024	230
➤ Science & Technology of June 2024	231





Schemes/ Apps / Portal	232
➤ National Schemes/ Apps of December 2024	232
➤ National Schemes/ Apps of November 2024	234
➤ National Schemes/ Apps of October 2024	237
➤ State Schemes/ Apps of October 2024	243
➤ National Schemes/ Apps of September 2024	245
➤ National Schemes/ Apps of August 2024	256
➤ States Schemes of August 2024	259
➤ National Schemes/ Apps of July 2024	260
➤ State Schemes/ Apps of July 2024	263
➤ National Schemes/ Apps of June 2024	264
➤ State Schemes of June 2024	267
Committees News	268
➤ Committees of September 2024	268
➤ Committees of August 2024	270
➤ Committees of July 2024	271
➤ Committees of June 2024	272
Important Days	274
➤ Important Days of December 2024	274
➤ Important Days of November 2024	276
➤ Important Days of October 2024	277
➤ Important Days of September 2024	279
➤ Important Days of August 2024	280
➤ Important Days of July 2024	281
➤ Important Days of June 2024	282
Obituaries (National/International)	283
➤ Obituaries (National/International) of December 2024	283
➤ Obituaries (National/International) of November 2024	283
➤ Obituaries (National/International) of October 2024	284
➤ Obituaries (National/International) of September 2024	285
➤ Obituaries (National/International) of August 2024	285
➤ Obituaries (National/International) of July 2024	285
➤ Obituaries (National/International) of June 2024	286





Miscellaneous Current Affairs One-Liners	286
➤ Miscellaneous Current Affairs One-Liners of December 2024	286
➤ Miscellaneous Current Affairs One-Liners of November 2024	286
➤ Miscellaneous Current Affairs One-Liners of October 2024	287
➤ Miscellaneous Current Affairs One-Liners of September 2024	288
➤ Miscellaneous Current Affairs One-Liners of June 2024	289
➤ Miscellaneous Current Affairs One-Liners of July 2024	290
Static Takeaways Current Affairs	290
➤ Static Takeaways Current Affairs of December 2024	290
➤ Static Takeaways Current Affairs of November 2024	292





Most Important Current Affairs

Most Important Current Affairs of October 2024

Nobel Prize 2024 Winners List

The 2024 Nobel Prize announcement started from October 7, recognizing outstanding scientific, economic, literature, and

peace contributions. The Nobel prize announcement began with the award for **medicine or physiology on October 7**. The Awards will be giving into 6 categories. Nobel Prize 2024 is to be announced from **October 7th to 14th, 2024**.

The Nobel Prize winner list 2024

Winner's Name	Category	Topic
John J. Hopfield (US) and Geoffrey E. Hinton (Canada)	Physics	“for foundational discoveries and inventions that enable machine learning with artificial neural networks”
David Baker (US) and Demis Hassabis and John M. Jumper (London)	Chemistry	“for computational protein design” and “for protein structure prediction”
Victor Ambros (US) and Gary Ruvkun (US)	Medicine	“for the discovery of microRNA and its role in post-transcriptional gene regulation”
Han Kang (South Korea)	Literature	“for her intense poetic prose that confronts historical traumas and exposes the fragility of human life”
Nihon Hidankyo (Japan)	Peace	“for its efforts to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons and for demonstrating through witness testimony that nuclear weapons must never be used again”
Daron Acemoglu (Turkish-American), Simon Johnson (British-American) and James A. Robinson (American-British)	Economics	“for studies of how institutions are formed and affect prosperity”

IIFA Awards 2024: Check the Full List Of Winners

The pinnacle of the evening was the announcement of the winners, recognizing outstanding contributions across various categories in the Indian film industry.

Major Award Winners

- **Best Film:** “Animal” (Directed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga)
- **Best Actor:** Shah Rukh Khan for “Jawan”
- **Best Actress:** Rani Mukerji for “Mrs Chatterjee vs Norway”
- **Best Director:** Vidhu Vinod Chopra for “12th Fail”
- **Best Supporting Actor:** Anil Kapoor for “Animal”
- **Best Supporting Actress:** Shabana Azmi for “Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani”
- **Best Actor in Negative Role:** Bobby Deol for “Animal”

Screenplay and Music Awards

- **Best Story:** “Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani”
- **Best Story (Adapted):** “12th Fail”
- **Best Music:** “Animal”
- **Best Lyrics:** Siddharth-Garima for “Satranga” from “Animal”
- **Best Singer Male:** Bhupinder Babbal for “Arjan Valley” from “Animal”
- **Best Singer Female:** Shilpa Rao for “Chaleya”

Special Recognition Awards

- **Outstanding Contribution to Indian Cinema:** Jayantilal Gada and Hema Malini
- **Achievement on completing 25 years in cinema:** Karan Johar

RBI Monetary Policy Meeting 2024

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to keep the **repo rate unchanged at 6.5%** for the tenth consecutive time. This decision reflects a shift in the monetary policy stance from ‘**withdrawal of accommodation**’ to ‘**neutral.**’ As a result, all external benchmark lending rates linked to the repo rate will remain stable, providing relief to borrowers as their equated monthly instalments (EMIs) will not rise.

Here’s a summary of the key details from the RBI MPC meeting held from October 7-9, 2024:

- **Repo Rate Decision:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) kept the **repo rate unchanged at 6.5%**. This marks the **10th consecutive time** the rate has been held steady.
- **Monetary Policy Stance:** The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) shifted its stance from “withdrawal of accommodation” to a “**neutral**” position. This change allows for flexibility in adjusting interest rates based on inflation trends.
- **MPC Voting:** The decision to maintain the repo rate was reached with a majority vote of 5 out of 6 members in favor.
- **Inflation Projections:** The RBI forecasted inflation for the third quarter of FY25 at 4.8% and a decline to 4.2% in the fourth quarter. Retail inflation for FY25 was projected at 4.5%, assuming normal monsoon conditions. The inflation rate for Q1FY26 is expected to be 4.3%, slightly above the 4% target.





- **Economic Growth Estimates:** The RBI maintained its GDP growth estimate for FY25 at 7.2%. Growth estimates for specific quarters are: 7.0% for Q2FY25, 7.4% for Q3FY25, 7.4% for Q4FY25, and 7.3% for Q1FY26.
- **Reverse Repo Rate and Other Rates:** The reverse repo rate was maintained at 3.35%. The Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) and Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rates remained unchanged at 6.25% and 6.75%, respectively.

RBI Monetary Policy Committee Reshuffling

The Indian government has made a significant move in monetary policy governance by appointing three new external members to the Reserve Bank of India’s (RBI) **Monetary Policy Committee** (MPC). This decision comes at a crucial juncture, just days before a key policy meeting scheduled for October 9.

New Appointments and Their Significance

The New External Members

1. **Ram Singh** – Currently serving as the Director of Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi
2. **Saugata Bhattacharya** – A distinguished economist known for his expertise in monetary policy
3. **Dr. Nagesh Kumar** – The Director and Chief Executive of the Institute for Studies in Industrial Development, New Delhi

Outgoing Members

The new appointments will replace three veteran economists whose four-year terms expire on October 4:

- **Ashima Goyal** – Professor from Mumbai
- **Jayanth Varma** – Professor at IIM-Ahmedabad
- **Shashanka Bhide** – Senior Adviser based in New Delhi

GST Collections 2024

India’s Gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections hit a **40-month low in September 2024**, growing by just 6.5% to **₹1.73 lakh crore**. Net GST receipts rose by 3.9%, marking the slowest growth in the current financial year. Despite this, net collections were marginally up by 1.5% compared to August. The slowdown is attributed to weaker revenue growth from domestic transactions and imports, though imports saw a growth of 8%. GST refunds surged significantly, with overall refunds rising 31% compared to a 38% rise in August.

Key Trends in GST Revenue

- **Gross Revenues:** Grew by 6.5% to ₹1,73,240 crore, down 1% from August 2024.
- **Net Receipts:** Up 3.9% compared to the previous year, reaching ₹1,52,782 crore.
- **Domestic Revenues:** Rose 5.9%, while growth from imports outpaced domestic collections with an 8% increase.
- **Refund Growth:** Overall refunds were up 31%, with domestic refunds rising 24.3% and export-related refunds surging by 39.2%.

State-wise Performance

- **Top States:** **Maharashtra** topped the chart with ₹26,369 crore, followed by **Karnataka** (₹12,642 crore), **Tamil Nadu** (₹11,024 crore), **Gujarat** (₹10,153 crore), and **Haryana** (₹9,957 crore).
- **Highest Growth:** Haryana saw a 24% growth in revenues, while Manipur recorded a 33% contraction.
- **Underperforming States:** Telangana (1%), Rajasthan (2%), Uttar Pradesh (3%), and Gujarat (flat growth) lagged behind the national average.

Trends in GST Revenue Collection (January – September 2024)

Month	GST Collection (₹ Crore)
January 2024	₹1,72,129 crore
February 2024	₹1,68,337 crore
March 2024	₹1.78 lakh crore
April 2024	₹2.10 lakh crore
May 2024	₹1.73 lakh crore
June 2024	₹1.74 lakh crore
July 2024	₹1.82 lakh crore
August 2024	₹1.75 lakh crore
September 2024	₹1,73,240 crore

Finance Ministry Introduces New Norms for Handling Delayed Tax Refund Claims

The Ministry of Finance has released comprehensive guidelines to streamline the handling of delayed tax refund claims and loss carry forward applications. These guidelines aim to reduce bureaucratic delays, especially in cases where taxpayers missed filing their **income tax returns (ITR)** but had refunds due. A tiered authority system and specific time limits have been introduced, making the process smoother and quicker.

Crux of the Guidelines

The new circular from the **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** under the Ministry of Finance introduces a structured approach to condonation of delay applications. Taxpayers will no longer need to approach higher authorities if the tax refund amount increases, and a five-year time limit has been imposed for filing condonation applications.

Tiered Authority Structure

1. **Claims Up to Rs 1 Crore:** Principal Commissioners of Income-tax (Pr. CsIT/CsIT) can process these claims.
2. **Claims Between Rs 1-3 Crore:** Chief Commissioners of Income-tax (CCsIT) handle claims in this range.
3. **Claims Above Rs 3 Crore:** Principal Chief Commissioners of Income-tax (Pr. CCsIT) process higher claims.

Time Limits and Conditions

- **Strict Five-Year Limit:** A five-year limit from the end of the assessment year applies, with all claims filed after October 1, 2024, falling under this rule.





- **Court-related Refunds:** The period of court proceedings is excluded from the five-year limit. Applications must be filed within six months of the court order or the end of the financial year, whichever is later.
- **Supplementary Refund Claims:** Allowed under certain conditions but with no interest payable on late claims.

Streamlined Processing and Reduced Hurdles:

Authorities must dispose of refund applications within six months of receipt. The new norms aim to foster trust by ensuring timely refunds, reducing the need for taxpayer intervention, and improving compliance ease. These guidelines represent a step towards simplifying the tax administration process for taxpayers.

Rebate Structure

- **20% Rebate:** Non-commercial CNG and petrol vehicles.
- **15% Rebate:** Commercial CNG and petrol vehicles.
- **10% Rebate:** Diesel vehicles.

Conditions for Availing the Rebate

- Buyers must scrap their old vehicles and submit a **Certificate of Deposit** from a registered scrapping facility.
- The rebate is applicable if the new vehicle is registered within three years of obtaining the certificate.

Benefits

- **Pollution Reduction:** Removing old vehicles will contribute to better air quality.
- **Economic Stimulus:** The scheme is expected to boost demand for new vehicles, benefiting the auto industry.
- **Financial Incentive:** The tax rebate provides a monetary advantage for buyers upgrading to cleaner vehicles.

This initiative aligns with the government's past efforts to promote sustainable transportation and reduce pollution, enhancing air quality and consumer relief amidst rising costs.

Condonation of Delay Limits

The Ministry of Finance recently increased the monetary limits for condonation of delay in tax refund and loss carry forward claims, which now allow faster processing. These limits were raised from:

- **Earlier Limit:** Rs 50 lakh for Pr. CsIT/CsIT, Rs 2 crore for CCsIT, and Rs 3 crore for Pr. CCsIT.
- **Current Limit:** Rs 1 crore for Pr. CsIT/CsIT, Rs 3 crore for CCsIT, and above Rs 3 crore for Pr. CCsIT.

PM E-DRIVE Scheme Overview

- **Objective:** Accelerate **EV adoption** and build **infrastructure** under **Swachh Vahan** initiative, aligning with **PM Modi's** vision for **net-zero emissions by 2070**.
- **Financial Outlay:** ₹10,900 crore for **two years**.

Transition: Shift from **FAME** and **Electric Vehicle Promotion Scheme (EMPS)** to **PM E-DRIVE**.

Key Components:

- **Subsidies & Demand Incentives:** ₹3,679 crore for 24.79 lakh e-2Ws, 3.16 lakh e-3Ws, 14,028 e-buses.
- **E-Voucher System:** Aadhaar-authenticated e-vouchers for EV buyers.
- **E-Ambulances & E-Trucks:** ₹500 crore each.
- **E-Buses:** ₹4,391 crore for **14,028 e-buses** across **nine cities**.
- **Public Charging Infrastructure:** ₹2,000 crore for **72,300 fast chargers**.
- **Test Agency Modernization:** ₹780 crore for upgrading testing agencies.

Fund Allocation (in ₹ crore):

- **e-2 Wheelers:** ₹1,772 crore (24.79 lakh vehicles).
- **e-3 Wheelers (L5):** ₹715 crore (2.05 lakh vehicles).
- **e-Ambulances:** ₹500 crore.
- **e-Trucks:** ₹500 crore.
- **e-Buses:** ₹4,391 crore.
- **Charging Stations:** ₹2,000 crore.
- **Testing Agencies Upgradation:** ₹780 crore.

Key Features:

- **E-Voucher:** Aadhaar-authenticated **digital vouchers** for EV incentives.
- **Testing Agencies:** Modernization to meet **new EV tech standards**.

Focus: **Affordable, environment-friendly** transportation, primarily for **commercial EVs**, with incentives for **advanced battery-fitted EVs**.

Small Savings Scheme Interest Rates Unchanged for Q3 FY25

The government has announced that **interest rates** for small savings schemes, including the **Public Provident Fund (PPF)** and **National Savings Certificate (NSC)**, will remain **unchanged** for the **third consecutive quarter** from **October 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024**. Key rates include **8.2%** for the **Sukanya Samriddhi Scheme**, **7.5%** for **Kisan Vikas Patra** (maturing in 115 months), **7.1%** for **PPF**, and **4%** for **Post Office Savings Deposits**. The **NSC** maintains a rate of **7.7%**, and the **Monthly Income Scheme** continues to offer **7.4%**. The last revisions occurred in the **fourth quarter of the previous fiscal year**, marking a trend of **stability** in the economic environment.

Key Rates Overview:

- **Sukanya Samriddhi Scheme:** 8.2%
- **Kisan Vikas Patra:** 7.5% (matures in 115 months)
- **Public Provident Fund (PPF):** 7.1%
- **National Savings Certificate (NSC):** 7.7%
- **Post Office Savings Deposit:** 4%
- **Monthly Income Scheme:** 7.4%

The interest rates are reviewed quarterly and primarily apply to accounts opened during the specified periods, reflecting **consistency** in the government's approach to small savings schemes.





Interest rates for various small savings schemes for the specified periods

Scheme	Rate of Interest (01.04.24 to 30.06.24)	Rate of Interest (01.07.24 to 30.09.24)	Compounding Frequency
Senior Citizens Savings Scheme (SCSS)	8.20%	8.20%	Paid Quarterly
Public Provident Fund (PPF)	7.10%	7.10%	Annually
Sukanya Samridhi Account Scheme (SSA)	8.20%	8.20%	Annually
Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP)	7.50% (matures in 115 months)	7.50% (matures in 115 months)	Annually
National Savings Certificate (NSC)	7.70%	7.70%	Annually

The rates for SCSS, KVP, and NSC are applicable only for newly opened accounts during the period from 01.07.2024 to 30.09.2024.

GI Tags for Bodo Traditional Products

The **Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai** has granted **GI tags** to eight traditional products from Assam, celebrating the **Bodo community's cultural heritage**. These include **three rice beer variants, four food items, and the Bodo Aronai textile**.

Traditional Rice Beer Variants

- Bodo Jou Gwran:** Highest alcohol content (~16.11%).
- Maibra Jou Bidwi:** Ceremonial welcome drink, made from half-cooked rice and natural yeast.
- Bodo Jou Gishi:** Traditional rice-based beverage.

Traditional Food Items

- Bodo Napham:** Fermented fish delicacy.
- Bodo Ondla:** Rice powder curry with garlic, ginger, and salt.
- Bodo Gwkha:** Festive dish for **Bwisagu** celebration.
- Bodo Narzi:** Semi-fermented jute leaf dish, rich in Omega 3 and vitamins.

Traditional Textile

Bodo Aronai: Traditional shawl reflecting Bodo designs inspired by nature.

Cultural and Economic Impact

These GI tags help **preserve traditional knowledge**, protect **Bodo heritage**, and support **local industries**, creating potential economic opportunities for the community.

70th National Film Awards (2022) Ceremony

The winners of the **70th National Film Awards for the year 2022** were announced by the jury on 16th August 2024. The 70th National Film Awards ceremony was held on October 8, 2024, at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, where President Droupadi Murmu presented the awards. The event was attended by Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and other distinguished guests.

Key Sections of the Awards

- Feature Film Awards:** Recognizing outstanding feature films across various languages and genres.
- Non-Feature Film Awards:** Celebrating excellence in short films, documentaries, and animation.
- Best Writing on Cinema:** Honoring books and critics that explore and contribute to the discourse on Indian cinema.
- Dadasaheb Phalke Award:** Awarded for lifetime contributions to Indian cinema.

Notable Award Winner

- Best Feature Film: Aattam (The Play)
- Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment: Kantara
- Best Feature Film Promoting National, Social, and Environmental Values: Kutch Express
- Best Film in AVGC: Brahmastra Part 1: Shiva
- Best Debut Film of a Director: Fouja
- Best Direction: Sooraj Barjatya for Unchai
- Best Actor in a Leading Role: Rishab Shetty for Kantara
- Best Actress in a Leading Role:
 - Nithya Menen for Thiruchitrambalam (Tamil)
 - Manasi Parekh for Kutch Express (Gujarati)
- Best Actor in a Supporting Role: Pavan Raj Malhotra for Fouja (Haryanvi)
- Best Actress in a Supporting Role: Neena Gupta for Uunchai (Hindi)
- Best Child Artist: Sreepathy for Malikappuram (Malayalam)
- Best Male Playback Singer: Arijit Singh for "Kesariya" from Brahmastra Part 1: Shiva (Hindi) Best Female Playback Singer: Bombay Jayashri for Saudi Vell
- Mithun Chakraborty, who received the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award, while
- AR Rahman won his seventh national award for Ponnin Selvan I, which also took home the Best Film award.

Global Hunger Index 2024

The **Global Hunger Index (GHI)** is a comprehensive tool that tracks and measures hunger at the global, regional, and national levels. The 2024 GHI report sheds light on hunger levels across 127 countries, with specific emphasis on India's ranking and challenges.

India's Performance in GHI 2024

- India ranks **105th out of 127 countries in the Global Hunger Index 2024**, placing it in the "serious" hunger category.
- India's GHI score is 27.3, indicating a severe level of hunger.





Top 10 Performers in 2024

Country	Ranking
Belarus	1-22
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1-22
Chile	1-22
China	1-22
Costa Rica	1-22
Croatia	1-22
Estonia	1-22
Georgia	1-22
Hungary	1-22
Kuwait	1-22

The 22 countries with 2024 GHI scores of less than 5 are not assigned individual ranks, but rather are collectively ranked 1-22. Differences between their scores are minimal.

Worst Performers in the List

Rank	Country
121	Niger
122	Haiti
123	Dem. Rep. of the Congo
124	Madagascar
125	Chad
126	Yemen
127	Somalia

For the 2024 GHI report, data were assessed for 136 countries. Out of these, there were sufficient data to calculate 2024 GHI scores for and rank 127 countries (by way of comparison, 125 countries were ranked in the 2023 report).

India's Neighboring Countries

- 4. China
- 52. Thailand
- 56. Sri-Lanka
- 68. Nepal
- 74. Myanmar
- 77. Indonesia
- 84. Bangladesh
- 109. Pakistan
- 116. Afghanistan

5th National Water Awards 2023

The **Department of Water Resources, River Development, and Ganga Rejuvenation (DoWR, RD & GR)**, under the **Ministry of Jal Shakti**, proudly announces the winners of the **5th National Water Awards (NWA), 2023**. These prestigious awards recognize the efforts of individuals, organizations, and institutions across India in **water conservation and management**. With **38 winners**

across **9 categories**, the awards aim to raise awareness and encourage best practices in water usage and sustainability.

Categories and Winners of 5th National Water Awards 2023

The awards were given in **9 categories**, recognizing contributions from **states, districts, village panchayats, schools, colleges, industries, water user associations, institutions, and civil society organizations**. Below is a detailed list of winners for each category.

Best State

Rank	State
1st	Odisha
2nd	Uttar Pradesh
3rd	Gujarat (Joint Winner)
3rd	Puducherry (Joint Winner)

Best District (Zone-Wise)

Zone	District	State
South	Visakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh
North-East	Dhalai	Tripura
North	Banda (Joint Winner)	Uttar Pradesh
North	Ganderbal (Joint Winner)	Jammu & Kashmir
West	Indore	Madhya Pradesh
East	Balangir	Odisha

Best Village Panchayat

Rank	Village Name	State
1st	Pullampara, Thiruvananthapuram	Kerala
2nd	Masulpani, Kanker	Chhattisgarh
3rd	Hampapuram, Anantapur (Joint Winner)	Andhra Pradesh
3rd	Khliehrangnah, West Jaintia Hills (Joint Winner)	Meghalaya





Best Urban Local Body

Rank	Urban Local Body	State
1st	Surat	Gujarat
2nd	Puri	Odisha
3rd	Pune	Maharashtra

Best School or College

Rank	School/College Name	State
1st	Govt. Upper Primary School, Jethwanka Bas	Rajasthan
2nd	Govt. Sarvodya Kanya Vidyalaya, Paschim Vihar	New Delhi
3rd	Khairbani Ashram School, Baisinga	Odisha
–	BHSS, Zainakote (Special Mention)	Jammu & Kashmir

Best Industry

Rank	Industry Name	State
1st	Aravali Power Company Private Limited	Haryana
2nd	Apollo Tyres Limited	Tamil Nadu
3rd	Raymond Uco Denim Pvt Ltd	Maharashtra

Best Water User Association

Rank	Water User Association	State
1st	Pentakli Project Union of Water User Association	Maharashtra
2nd	Water User Cooperative Society	Karnataka
3rd	Parambur Big Tank Water User Association	Tamil Nadu

Best Institution (Other than School/College)

Rank	Institution Name	State
1st	Tamil Nadu Agricultural University	Tamil Nadu
2nd	Koner Lakshmaiah Education Foundation	Andhra Pradesh
3rd	Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (Joint Winner)	Tamil Nadu
3rd	Sri Tirumala Nagar Resident Welfare Association	Andhra Pradesh
–	IIT Tirupati (Special Mention)	Andhra Pradesh
–	Birla Institute of Science and Technology (Special Mention)	Rajasthan

Best Civil Society

Rank	Civil Society Name	State
1st	BAIF Development Research Foundation	Maharashtra
2nd	Yuva Mitra, Mitrangan Campus	Maharashtra
3rd	Gramin Vikas Trust	Gujarat
–	Art of Living, Vyakti Vikas Kendra India (Special Mention)	Karnataka
–	S. M. Sehgal Foundation (Special Mention)	Haryana

PM Internship Scheme

The Prime Minister's Internship Scheme was launched on October 3, 2024. This ambitious initiative, implemented through an online portal, aims to provide one crore young individuals with valuable internship opportunities over the next five years, allowing them to immerse themselves in diverse business environments and explore various professions.

Background

- **Announced In:** Union Budget 2024-25.
- **Aim :** To provide one crore internship opportunities over five years.
- **Platform :** Implemented through an online portal.
- **Objective :** Equip youth with skills and real-world exposure across diverse sectors.
- **Pilot Project (2024-25)**
- **Target:** 1.25 lakh internships.
- **Sectors Covered:** 24 sectors, including oil, gas, energy, travel, hospitality, automotive, banking, and financial services.
- **Company Selection:** Based on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) expenditure over the past three years.

Key Highlights of the PM Internship Scheme

Eligibility Criteria

- **Age Range :** 21-24 years.
- **Candidates :** Indian nationals not employed full-time or engaged in full-time education.
- **Educational Qualifications :** High School, ITI certificates, diplomas, or bachelor's degrees (BA, B.Sc, B.Com, BCA, BBA, B.Pharm, etc.).
- **Program Duration :** 12 months.

Financial Assistance

- **Monthly Stipend:** ₹5,000 (₹500 from partner companies and ₹4,500 from the government via DBT).
- **One-time Grant:** ₹6,000 upon joining the internship.
- **Insurance Coverage:** All interns will be covered under Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, with premiums paid by the government.





PM Internship Portal

- A **centralized online platform to manage** the internship lifecycle.
- Companies can post internship opportunities and shortlist candidates.
- Candidates can apply for up to five internships based on location, sector, and qualifications.
- Shortlisting prioritizes diversity and inclusivity, **focusing on Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, OBCs, and Persons with Disabilities.**

Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)

The **2024 Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)** report highlights the alarming interconnections between violent conflict and multidimensional poverty across various nations. According to the report, approximately **1.1 billion people** live in acute multidimensional poverty, with **455 million** residing in conflict-affected regions.

Indicators and cutoffs

Dimension	Indicators	Deprivation Cutoffs
Health	Child mortality	Deprived if a child under the age of 18 years has died in the family in the five years preceding the survey.
Nutrition	Undernourishment	Deprived if any adult or child, for whom there is nutritional information, is undernourished.
Education	Years of schooling	Deprived if no household member has completed six years of schooling.
	School attendance	Deprived if no household member aged 'school entrance age + six' years or older has completed six years of schooling.
Standard of Living	Cooking fuel	Deprived if the household cooks with dung, wood, or charcoal.
	Sanitation	Deprived if the household's sanitation facility is either not improved (according to MDG guidelines), is shared with other households, or both.
	Drinking water	Deprived if the household does not have access to improved drinking water (according to MDG guidelines) or improved drinking water is more than a 30-minute walk from home.
	Electricity	Deprived if the household has no electricity.
	Housing	Deprived if at least one of the three housing materials for roof, walls, and floor are inadequate: the floor is of natural materials and/or the roof and/or walls are of natural or rudimentary materials.
	Assets	Deprived if the household does not own more than one of these assets: radio, TV, telephone, computer, animal cart, bicycle, motorbike, or refrigerator and does not own a car or truck.

UDAN Scheme

In a landmark announcement on October 21, 2024, Civil Aviation Minister K. Rammohan Naidu declared that the government will extend the **UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) scheme** for an additional **10 years**. The decision, made during a special event celebrating eight years of the scheme, reinforces the government's commitment to enhancing regional air connectivity and making air travel accessible to every citizen of India.

The UDAN scheme, launched on October 21, 2016, has been instrumental in not only boosting regional airlines but also

Key Findings

Child Poverty: Over **half** (584 million) of the impoverished population are children under 18, indicating a severe impact on the youth, with **27.9%** of children living in poverty compared to **13.5%** of adults.

Basic Needs: Many poor individuals lack essential resources, including adequate sanitation (828 million), housing (886 million), and cooking fuel (998 million).

Nutrition: Over **637 million** people live in households with at least one undernourished individual, with South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa being significantly affected.

Global Trends

Since the inception of the MPI in **2010**, it has served as an essential tool for identifying vulnerable populations. The report reflects on the achievements and ongoing challenges in poverty reduction, emphasizing the urgent need for investment in peace to effectively address poverty.

creating thousands of jobs and significantly contributing to the growth of tourism across India. With 601 air routes and 71 operationalized airports under the scheme, UDAN has drastically improved air travel infrastructure in underserved and remote regions.

The UDAN Scheme's Journey: 2016–2024

The UDAN scheme was initially launched for a period of 10 years in 2016. Its core objectives include:

- **Enhancing regional air connectivity** by offering subsidies to airlines that operate flights on unserved or underserved routes.





- **Boosting tourism and trade** by connecting smaller cities and remote regions with major hubs.
- **Making flying affordable** for the common citizen by capping airfares on specific routes.

Over the past eight years, UDAN has seen remarkable growth, operationalizing more than 601 air routes and making 71 airports fully functional. This has not only bridged the accessibility gap between India's metropolitan and non-metro areas but also revolutionized the nation's aviation sector by reducing airfares on regional routes.

Extension for Another 10 Years

- In his address, Civil Aviation Minister K. Ram Mohan Naidu highlighted the success of the UDAN scheme and the reasons for extending it for another decade. He noted that UDAN has made substantial contributions to connecting the hinterlands of India to urban centers, thus boosting regional development and contributing to the overall economy. With the scheme set to expire in 2026, this extension signals a continued commitment to sustainable regional aviation growth.
- Additionally, Civil Aviation Secretary Vumlung Vualnam emphasized that while the extension is welcome, the ministry is also looking into the financial viability of the scheme, with an aim to streamline the subsidy and operational procedures. Ensuring that the scheme remains fiscally sustainable is critical to maintaining the affordability and frequency of flights across the country's remote regions.

India's Aviation Infrastructure: From 74 to 157 Airports

- One of the most notable successes of the UDAN scheme has been the exponential increase in the number of operational airports across India. When the scheme was launched in 2016, India had only 74 airports in service. By 2024, this number has more than doubled to 157, a clear testament to UDAN's success in boosting India's aviation infrastructure.
- This growth is a part of the broader vision to ensure that aviation infrastructure in India continues to expand, with a goal of 350-400 operational airports by 2047. This ambitious target aligns with India's 100th year of independence, positioning the nation as a global leader in aviation connectivity and infrastructure.

Milestones in RCS-UDAN Development

UDAN Versions

- **UDAN 1.0** : Awarded 128 flight routes to five airline companies across 70 airports, including 36 newly operational airports.
- **UDAN 2.0** : Announced connections to 73 underserved and unserved airports; included helipads for the first time.
- **UDAN 3.0** : Introduced tourism routes and connected water aerodromes with seaplanes, focusing on the Northeast Region.
- **UDAN 4.0** : Emphasized operations in the Northeastern regions, hilly states, and islands, incorporating helicopters and seaplanes.

UDAN 5.0

- Launched with improvements based on stakeholder feedback, focusing on Category-2 (20-80 seats) and Category-3 (>80 seats) aircraft.
- Removed the 600 km distance cap, allowing airlines to operate without distance restrictions.
- Airlines must commence operations within 4 months of route award.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi marked the 8th anniversary of the **UDAN (Ude Desh ke Aam Nagrik) scheme**, celebrating its transformative impact on India's aviation sector. **Launched in October 2016**, UDAN aimed to make air travel affordable for the common man and boost regional connectivity.

BRICS Summit 2024

The **2024 BRICS Summit**, held in **Kazan, Russia**, from October 22-24, marks a significant turning point for the group as Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the UAE join its ranks following their inclusion at the 2023 summit. The event centers around the theme, **"Strengthening Multilateralism for Fair Global Development and Security,"** with key discussions on alternative global payment systems, dedollarization, and enhanced cooperation. The summit witnessed the adoption of the BRICS Kazan Declaration, endorsing UN reforms and investigating cross-border financial solutions to reduce reliance on the US dollar.

16th BRICS Summit: Key Outcomes

- **BRICS Pay**: A new payment system introduced to facilitate financial transactions among member nations, providing an alternative to SWIFT for international settlements.
- **Kazan Declaration**: Adoption of reforms to the UN, support for Palestine's full UN membership under the two-state solution, and deliberations on using national currencies for trade.

Key Bilateral Meetings

- **China-Russia**: Presidents Xi and Putin reaffirmed their strategic partnership, advancing the Belt and Road Initiative and Eurasian Economic Union integration.
- **India-China**: PM Modi and President Xi resolved a four-year military standoff, aiming to bolster relations between the two ancient civilizations.
- **India-Iran**: Discussions focused on Chabahar Port, Afghanistan, Central Asia, and the Israel-Palestine conflict.
- **Russia-South Africa**: President Ramaphosa acknowledged Russia's support during apartheid, reinforcing their ties.

Global Participation

- Leaders from several nations, including South Africa, China, India, and UAE, attended, with Brazilian President Lula da Silva participating online due to health reasons. Other countries such as Armenia, Belarus, and Uzbekistan also sent delegates, contributing to the growing influence of BRICS on global geopolitics.





15th BRICS Summit

- The **15th BRICS Summit**, held in **Johannesburg**, marked a significant milestone with the group’s expansion by inviting **six new members: Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE**. The expansion highlights BRICS’ aim to strengthen its global influence and increase representation from the Global South, effective from January 2024. Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to multilateralism, international law, and sustainable development, pushing for reforms in global governance bodies like the UN.

Key Developments

- BRICS Expansion and Influence
- The summit saw invitations extended to nations across Africa, Latin America, and West Asia, enhancing the group’s geopolitical weight. Over 40 nations have expressed interest in joining BRICS, reflecting the bloc’s growing relevance. The inclusion of energy-rich countries like Saudi Arabia and Iran also bolsters BRICS’ strategic resources.

Common Currency and Space Cooperation

- The BRICS leaders agreed to explore the possibility of creating a common currency for trade and investment, aiming to reduce reliance on the US dollar. India proposed the formation of a BRICS space consortium, with particular significance following its successful lunar mission.

India’s Role and Challenges

- While India stands to benefit from a more diverse BRICS, it faces challenges, including managing its relationships with China, navigating trade imbalances, and ensuring a balanced approach within the group. India advocates for global governance reforms in the UN and other multilateral organizations, warning that without reforms, these institutions may become obsolete.

A Platform for Global Reform

- India, along with other BRICS members, seeks to use the bloc’s expansion to push for broader reforms in global institutions. The expansion sets the stage for BRICS to play a pivotal role in reshaping 21st-century global governance, ensuring that developing nations have a stronger voice on the world stage.

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

Odisha is set to host the **18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas** from **January 8th to 10th next year in its capital city, Bhubaneswar**. The event, which celebrates the contributions of the Indian diaspora, will take place at Janata Maidan.

Key Event Details

- **Event** : 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD)
- **Dates** : January 8 to 10, 2025
- **Location** : Janata Maidan, Bhubaneswar, Odisha
- **Approval** : Proposal approved by Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi after submission from the Union Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

Event Organization

Jointly Organized by

- Odisha Government
- Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)

Preparations

- A five-member delegation from the MEA has visited Bhubaneswar to coordinate with state officials.
- Various committees have been established to ensure smooth execution of the event.

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

Significance and History

Overview

- Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) is celebrated annually on January 9th to honor the contributions of the overseas Indian community towards the development of India.
- The date was chosen to commemorate Mahatma Gandhi’s return to India from South Africa in 1915, marking the start of his role in India’s freedom movement.

Key Historical Milestones

First Celebration

- PBD was **first celebrated in 2003** to recognize the contributions of the Indian diaspora.

Biennial Event

- **Since 2015, Pravasi Bharatiya Divas has been held every two years to engage the Indian diaspora in developmental initiatives.**

Last Edition

- The previous **PBD was held in Indore, Madhya Pradesh**.

Significance of January 9th

- **Mahatma Gandhi’s Return to India (1915)**
- **January 9 was chosen for the PBD celebration to honor Mahatma Gandhi’s return to Mumbai from South Africa in 1915.**
- Gandhi’s return marked a significant turning point in India’s freedom struggle, symbolizing the potential of the Indian diaspora in shaping the nation’s future.

Importance of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

- PBD recognizes the **invaluable contributions of the Indian diaspora to the nation’s socio-economic, cultural, and political progress.**
- The event serves as a **platform for overseas Indians to reconnect with their roots and contribute to India’s development through investment, knowledge sharing, and policy collaboration.**
- The celebration offers an opportunity for the Government of India to engage with the global Indian community, understand their needs, and foster relationships that support India’s global outreach.





COP on United Nations Biodiversity Conference

The two-week United Nations Biodiversity Conference (**COP16**) commenced today in **Colombia**, bringing together environmental leaders from nearly 200 countries to evaluate historic commitments **aimed at halting and reversing the loss of biodiversity**.

Conference Objectives

- Delegates in Cali will discuss strategies **to combat the rapid rate of destruction of natural habitats and ensure compliance** with the 2022 biodiversity accord.
- Countries are expected to commit to setting aside 30% of their territories for conservation purposes and to reduce subsidies for businesses that negatively impact the environment.
- The conference aims to establish mandatory reporting for companies on their environmental impact, promoting transparency and accountability.
- Countries were **expected to submit their biodiversity plans** by the start of the summit, but as of Friday, only 31 out of 195 countries had filed plans with the UN biodiversity secretariat.

About United Nations Biodiversity Conference

- The UN Biodiversity Conference is the **regular meeting of the countries who have signed (and are therefore ‘parties to’) the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**.
- CBD is an international agreement for conserving biodiversity with the vision of “living in harmony with nature by 2050”.
- The **convention was adopted at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992**.
- The first Conference of the Parties to the convention (**COP 1**) **took place in Nassau, Bahamas in 1994**.
- The COP is the arena for international governments to meet and review progress on the convention and establish new measures needed to support its goals.

Objectives

- The conservation of biological diversity,
- The sustainable use of its components,
- The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits of biological diversity.

How many countries are part of the Convention on Biological Diversity?

- **A total of 196 countries** (including India) are party to the Convention on Biological Diversity – although the United States is notably absent.
- Each country is required **to set National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)** detailing how the principles of the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources will be integrated into their country’s national policies.

Secretariat

- The CBD Secretariat is based in Montreal, Canada.

INDIA-CHINA LAC Agreement

India recently announced a pivotal agreement regarding patrolling along the **Line of Actual Control (LAC)** with China. This development is seen as a potential stepping stone toward normalizing relations between the two nations following tensions that escalated in 2020. The pact entails a structured approach to disengagement and resolution of the long-standing border disputes, specifically in areas like the **Depsang Plains and Demchok**.

Key Highlights of the Agreement

Restoration of Patrolling Rights

The agreement allows both nations to restore mutual patrolling rights in the Depsang Plains and the Demchok region, areas where disputes existed even before the 2020 border incursions. Indian troops will now be permitted to patrol up to **Patrolling Points (PP) 10 to 13 in the Depsang Plains and the Charding Nullah in Demchok**. Notably, areas where previous disengagements occurred—such as **Galwan Valley, Pangong Tso, and Gogra-Hot Springs**—are explicitly excluded from renegotiation.

India-China LAC Agreement: What this means, Implications and Cautions

Three-Step Process: Disengagement, De-escalation, and Demilitarization

The agreement outlines a phased process focusing on:

1. **Disengagement:** Immediate withdrawal of troops from frontline positions.
2. **De-escalation:** Gradual reduction of military presence along the LAC, currently estimated at 50,000 to 60,000 troops from each side.
3. **Demilitarization:** Long-term objective of reducing military hardware and personnel in sensitive border areas.

This structured approach aims to prevent future incidents, particularly those akin to the deadly clashes in Galwan Valley, which claimed the lives of 20 Indian soldiers and at least four Chinese soldiers.

Background: The Road to Agreement

Modi’s Call for Improved Relations

In April 2024, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasized the importance of addressing the prolonged border situation to normalize India-China relations. His call for constructive dialogue was met with a positive response from Beijing.

Positive Chinese Response

Chinese officials acknowledged that the relationship between India and China transcends the border dispute, indicating a willingness to engage in constructive dialogue.





Focus on Patrolling Rights

In May 2024, Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar articulated optimism regarding the resolution of remaining border disputes, particularly highlighting the significance of patrolling rights in the Ladakh region.

Significance of the Patrolling Pact

The patrolling arrangement is a cornerstone of the agreement and is critical for maintaining order and stability along the LAC. In the absence of a clear physical demarcation, regular patrols are essential for asserting territorial claims. The Indian troops typically patrol to their perceived borders and leave behind markers, such as Indian-made items, to indicate their presence.

Guidelines for Troop Conduct

The agreement also reaffirms commitments made in the 2005 Border Pact, specifically Article 4, which outlines guidelines for troop conduct during face-offs. This includes self-restraint in encounters, prohibition of force, and mutual courtesy, aiming to prevent escalation during incidents along the border.

Diverging Interpretations Post-Agreement

Following the announcement, there were noticeable differences in how India and China interpreted the agreement:

Indian Perspective

India’s official statement emphasized a “**complete disengagement and resolution of issues**” arising from the 2020 confrontations. Indian leaders reiterated that a comprehensive resolution of border standoffs is a prerequisite for normalizing bilateral relations.

Chinese Perspective

In contrast, China described the agreement as “**important progress**” but maintained that broader relations should not be held hostage to the border dispute. This reflects a preference for a compartmentalized approach to diplomatic relations.

Planned Steps for Future Resolution

Both countries have indicated plans for future dialogue to seek a fair and mutually acceptable solution to the boundary question. **India’s Special Representatives** are set to meet soon, while China aims for diplomatic discussions at various levels to restore relations.

Conclusion: Cautious Optimism in India’s Strategic Circles

While there is cautious optimism regarding the path forward, strategic circles in India are mindful of the complexities involved. The phased process of **disengagement, de-escalation, and eventual troop reduction** is anticipated to take several years, contingent on both nations’ adherence to the agreement. The future remains uncertain as to whether these steps will unfold in parallel or sequentially, but the initial steps have initiated a trust-building process between two historically adversarial neighbors.

Future Implications of the LAC Agreement

The LAC agreement holds significant implications for both countries. While it serves as a catalyst for trust-building and aims to prevent future clashes, India’s cautious approach, in contrast to China’s broader focus on ties, hints at the complexities ahead. The path to lasting resolution may require extensive negotiations, underscoring the delicate balance that both nations must navigate as they seek to redefine their bilateral relationship.

Centre Appoints 29 Joint Secretaries

In a significant move aimed at strengthening various departments, the Government of India has appointed 29 officers as Joint Secretaries across different ministries and sectors. The reshuffle, orchestrated by the Centre, involves officers from a range of central services, including the **Indian Defence Accounts Service (IDAS)**, **Indian Railway Service of Electrical Engineers (IRSEE)**, **Indian Audit and Accounts Service (IA&AS)**, and **Indian Revenue Service (IRS)**, among others. This reshuffle reflects the government’s commitment to optimizing governance by assigning experienced and specialized personnel to pivotal roles.

Key Appointments in the Ministry of Home Affairs

Three officers have been designated as Joint Secretaries in the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA):

- **Praveen Kumar Rai** and **Rakesh Kumar Pandey**, both officers from the **Indian Defence Accounts Service (IDAS)**, have been entrusted with Joint Secretary roles in the Home Ministry.
- **Rajesh Gupta**, from the **Indian Railway Service of Electrical Engineers (IRSEE)**, has also been appointed as Joint Secretary in the MHA, bringing his engineering expertise to the table.

Additionally, **Raj Kumar**, a 1999-batch officer from the **Indian Audit and Accounts Service (IA&AS)**, has been appointed as **Director (Finance)** in the **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)**, where he will serve a five-year tenure under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Strategic Roles in Economic and Cooperative Sectors

Several senior officers have been assigned to roles critical to India’s economic growth and cooperative development:

- **Deepak Agarwal**, a 2000-batch **Indian Administrative Service (IAS)** officer from the Uttar Pradesh cadre, has been appointed as **Managing Director (Joint Secretary level)** at the **National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED)**. NAFED plays a crucial role in promoting cooperative marketing, and Agarwal’s leadership is expected to enhance its efficiency.
- **Premjit Lal** has taken the role of **Executive Director** at the **India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO)**, where his leadership will focus on promoting Indian trade and organizing events to enhance global trade engagement.





Appointments in Administrative and Personnel Management

To improve administrative efficiency and streamline personnel management, two experienced IAS officers have been appointed to significant positions:

- **Chauhan Sarita Chand** has been appointed as **Joint Secretary** in the **Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances**, an essential department focused on improving governance mechanisms and addressing public grievances.
- **P Bala Kiran**, another IAS officer, has been appointed as **Joint Secretary** in the **Department of Personnel & Training**, where he will play a role in overseeing personnel policies, training, and human resource management across government departments.

Key Roles in Social Welfare and Women Empowerment

In a move that underscores the government's commitment to social welfare and women's empowerment, the Centre has appointed **Bhavna Saxena**, a 1996-batch **Indian Police Service (IPS)** officer of the Andhra Pradesh cadre, as the **CEO of the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA)**. CARA, under the **Ministry of Women & Child Development**, is responsible for the adoption process in India, and Saxena's experience in the police service is expected to bring operational discipline to this sensitive area.

Appointments in Petroleum, Commerce, and Corporate Affairs

Key appointments were made in departments critical to India's industrial and economic landscape:

- **Anjan Kumar Mishra**, a 1998-batch officer from the **Indian Ordnance Factories Service (IOFS)**, has been designated as **Secretary of the Petroleum & Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB)** under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas. This role is crucial in regulating India's oil and gas sector, which has strategic importance for the country's energy security.
- **Kesang Yangzom Sherpa**, a 1995-batch IRS (Income Tax cadre) officer, has taken on the role of **Joint Secretary in the Department of Commerce**. Her experience in tax-related fields will bring valuable insights to the department responsible for regulating and promoting India's international trade.
- **Balamurugan D** has been appointed as **Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs**, where he will be tasked with overseeing corporate governance, regulatory frameworks, and the facilitation of business in India.

Environmental and Agricultural Roles

Recognizing the importance of environmental conservation and sustainable agriculture, the Centre has appointed senior bureaucrats in relevant roles:

- **Rajat Agarwal** and **Ved Prakash Mishra** have been appointed as **Joint Secretaries in the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change**. Their roles will involve tackling issues related to environmental policy,

climate change initiatives, and forest conservation, which are critical to India's ecological future.

- **Rama Shankar Sinha** has been appointed as **Joint Secretary in the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying**. His role is pivotal in supporting the livestock sector, ensuring food security, and providing livelihood to millions in rural areas.

Enhancing Development in the North Eastern Region

As part of the government's ongoing efforts to foster development in India's North Eastern states, **Niraj Kumar**, an officer from the **Central Secretariat Service (CSS)**, has been appointed as **Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER)**. This role will involve promoting developmental initiatives and addressing socio-economic challenges in the North East.

68th Ballon d'Or Paris, France

The 2024 Ballon d'Or ceremony in Paris was a night dominated by Manchester City and Spain midfielder Rodri, who triumphed over competitors from Real Madrid to claim **football's most prestigious individual award**. The event was also notable for numerous other recognitions, including those for promising young talents, coaching excellence, and outstanding club achievements.

Awarding Body

- Ballon d'Or is an annual award given by **France Football** to the best male and female footballers over the previous year.
- This Year UEFA also partnered with France Football award.

Rodri (Spain, Manchester City)

- The **28-year-old secured the men's Ballon d'Or award**, celebrating his instrumental contributions to Manchester City's success, including their Premier League win and his exceptional performance for Spain in the Euro 2024 tournament.
- Rodri edged out Real Madrid's Vinicius Junior, Jude Bellingham, and Dani Carvajal, each known for their incredible form over the season.
- Aside from his club success, Rodri was named the Player of the Tournament at Euro 2024, showcasing his vital role in Spain's victorious campaign.

Aitana Bonmatí (Spain, Barcelona)

- For the second consecutive year, Bonmatí earned the title of the world's best female footballer.
- Achievements: Bonmatí helped FC Barcelona win the Spanish league, the Spanish cup, and the Her outstanding season led to a 1-2-3 finish for Barcelona, with her teammates Caroline Graham Hansen and Salma Paralluelo following in the rankings.
- She received the award from actress Natalie Portman, who acknowledged her contributions to women's football.





Lamine Yamal Wins Kopa Trophy

- The 17-year-old prodigy claimed the Kopa Trophy, awarded to the best player under 21.
- Yamal played a key role in Spain's Euro 2024 campaign, notably scoring a stunning goal in the semifinal against France. He also scored 16 goals at club level in the 2023/24 season.
- Yamal is now the sixth player to receive this award, joining previous winners like Kylian Mbappé and Jude Bellingham.

Men's Club of the Year

- **Real Madrid** took home the Men's Club of the Year award for the winning UEFA Champions League, La Liga and Spanish super cup.

Coach of the Year

- **Carlo Ancelotti, Real Madrid's manager**, was named Men's Coach of the Year. His leadership led the club to success in both La Liga and the UEFA Champions League.
- Ancelotti accepted the award, reflecting on his team's successes despite the club's absence from the ceremony.

Additional Honors

Yashin Trophy (Best Goalkeeper)

Emiliano Martínez (Argentina, Aston Villa)

- Recognized for his exceptional season, including performances for Argentina's national team.

Gerd Müller Trophy

- Shared by Kylian Mbappé (France, PSG/Real Madrid) and Harry Kane (England, Bayern Munich) for their 52-goal achievements across all competitions.

Women's Coach of the Year

Emma Hayes (Chelsea, USA)

- Hayes was celebrated for her success with Chelsea and her impact on the women's game internationally.

Socrates Award

- Jenni Hermoso (Spain, Tigres UANL) – Recognized for her humanitarian efforts off the field.

Complete List of 2024 Ballon d'Or Award Winners

1. Men's Ballon d'Or: Rodri (Manchester City, Spain)
2. Women's Ballon d'Or: Aitana Bonmatí (Barcelona, Spain)
3. Kopa Trophy: Lamine Yamal (Barcelona, Spain)
4. Yashin Trophy: Emiliano Martínez (Aston Villa, Argentina)
5. Men's Coach of the Year: Carlo Ancelotti (Real Madrid, Italy)
6. Women's Coach of the Year: Emma Hayes (Chelsea/USA)
7. Men's Club of the Year: Real Madrid
8. Women's Club of the Year: FC Barcelona
9. Gerd Müller Trophy: Kylian Mbappé (PSG/Real Madrid) & Harry Kane (Bayern Munich)
10. Socrates Award: Jenni Hermoso (Spain, Tigres UANL) – Recognized for her humanitarian efforts off the field.

PM Man Ki Baat October

In the recent episode of Mann Ki Baat, the Prime Minister of India touched on several pivotal themes: the country's unity, cultural heritage, the significance of self-reliance, and growing technological advancements. This comprehensive session highlighted India's journey of resilience and progress while celebrating its diverse cultural tapestry and strides in innovation.

A Special Visit to Ulihatu: A Tribute to Bhagwan Birsa Munda

The Prime Minister recalled his memorable visit to **Ulihatu Village**, the birthplace of **Bhagwan Birsa Munda**, on his birth anniversary, emphasizing the deep connection with India's freedom struggle felt during this visit. He noted how touching the sacred soil of Ulihatu reminded him of the immense **strength and courage** ingrained in the nation's heritage, a legacy shaping the destiny of millions of Indians.

Honoring the Legacy of Sardar Patel and Bhagwan Birsa Munda

Reflecting on India's history of remarkable figures, the Prime Minister highlighted **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel** and **Bhagwan Birsa Munda** as towering icons whose legacies have contributed to the idea of a unified India. With celebrations of their **150th birth anniversaries** on the horizon, he urged the nation to commemorate their contributions, inspiring unity and resilience.

Key Focus: Sardar Patel and Bhagwan Birsa Munda symbolize unity in diversity, making their life stories vital sources of inspiration for contemporary India.

A Global Celebration of Indian Heritage

The **150th birth anniversary** of **Mahatma Gandhi** was a remarkable global event, resonating from **Times Square, New York**, to remote villages in Africa. The Prime Minister acknowledged that Gandhiji's ideals of **truth** and **non-violence** transcended borders, finding relevance among young people worldwide. This global reverence was similar when celebrating **Swami Vivekananda's** birth anniversary, which helped today's youth appreciate India's **spiritual and cultural strengths**.

India's Growing Animation and Gaming Industry

India's Animation Industry is evolving into a global powerhouse. Animated series like **Chhota Bheem** and **Motu-Patlu** have captured audiences in India and beyond. The Prime Minister lauded Indian talent in the animation field, mentioning that Indian artists are also contributing to international productions, like the **Spider-Man** and **Transformers** franchises.

The **gaming sector** is also thriving, with Indian games now attracting worldwide attention. With significant opportunities in **VR, AR, and game development**, India is poised to lead in innovative digital content. The Prime Minister's message to the youth was clear: seize the moment, harness creativity, and establish India's name in global gaming and animation.





Atmanirbhar Bharat: India's Path to Self-Reliance

The Prime Minister emphasized the **Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan**, or **Self-Reliant India Mission**, as a campaign powered by the collective spirit of the people. Through initiatives like local mobile manufacturing, defense exports, and **space achievements**—including the recent **South Pole lunar landing**—India is swiftly progressing toward self-reliance across multiple sectors.

The recent installation of Asia's largest **Imaging Telescope MACE** in Ladakh is another feather in India's cap, showcasing indigenous capabilities even in extreme conditions.

Key Highlight: India, once heavily dependent on imports, is now a leading producer and exporter in numerous fields, exemplifying the transformative impact of self-reliance.

Combating Cyber Frauds and Ensuring Digital Security

Raising awareness about **Digital Arrest** frauds, the Prime Minister discussed how these scams work and shared steps for citizens to protect themselves. He advised everyone to follow three key steps: **Stop, Think, and Take Action**. For any suspicious calls, the **national cyber helpline (1930)** and **cybercrime.gov.in** are resources to report scams. The Prime Minister also urged schools and colleges to educate students on digital safety, further strengthening India's stance on **cybersecurity**.

Preserving India's Cultural Heritage

The Prime Minister highlighted the tireless work of individuals preserving India's rich cultural heritage. He noted the **Cheriyal Folk Art** of Telangana, the **Abujhmadia tribal art** in Chhattisgarh, and **Sarangi performances** preserving **Dogra culture**. Through the efforts of dedicated artists, Indian traditions are being kept alive and are even spreading internationally, creating "Cultural Bridges" that connect India to the world.

Global Reach: Indian cultural influences have reached places as diverse as **Yakutsk** in Russia, where Kalidasa's Abhijnana Shakuntalam is performed, and **Peru**, where Indian classical dance is gaining popularity.

Fit India Movement and National Unity Day

The **Fit India Movement** has become a way of life across the country, with fitness activities incorporated into school

curriculums. Highlighting the upcoming **National Unity Day on October 31**, which coincides with Deepawali, the Prime Minister encouraged maximum participation in the **Run for Unity on October 29**. The event celebrates both **physical fitness and national unity**, reflecting the spirit of a healthier, stronger India. **Focus on Fitness:** From school initiatives like the **Fit India School Hours** to family fitness activities, the movement is influencing people of all ages and promoting holistic wellness.

Concluding Thoughts

This episode of Mann Ki Baat resonated with a message of unity, self-reliance, and cultural pride. The Prime Minister's words emphasized the need to celebrate India's rich legacy while advancing with modern innovations, urging every citizen to play their part in building a resilient and globally recognized India.

Keywords and Themes

- **Unity in Diversity**
- **Bhagwan Birsa Munda**
- **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**
- **Mahatma Gandhi**
- **Self-Reliant India (Atmanirbhar Bharat)**
- **Digital Security**
- **Cyber Awareness**
- **Indian Cultural Heritage**
- **Fit India Movement**
- **VR Tourism**

Most Important Current Affairs of September 2024

Ramon Magsaysay Award

In a momentous recognition of his contributions to the world of animation and storytelling, **Hayao Miyazaki**, the renowned Japanese film director and co-founder of Studio Ghibli, has been awarded the esteemed **Ramon Magsaysay Award** for 2024. This honor, often referred to as "Asia's Nobel Prize," underscores Miyazaki's profound impact on both the art of animation and global cultural discourse.

List of Ramon Magsaysay Award Winners for 2024

Honoree	Country	Profession/Role	Contribution
Hayao Miyazaki	Japan	Animator	Beloved Japanese animator known for his iconic work in animation.
Phuntsho Karma	Bhutan	Scholar and Social Worker	Bhutanese scholar and social worker, recognized for contributions to education and social causes.
Nguyen Thi Ngoc Phuong	Vietnam	Doctor	Works for victims of Agent Orange used during the Vietnam War.
Farhan Farwiza	Indonesia	Conservationist	Founder of Yayasan Hutan Alam dan Lingkungan Aceh (HAKA), dedicated to preserving the Leuser ecosystem.
Rural Doctors Movement	Thailand	Medical Organization	A movement of doctors committed to providing healthcare in rural areas of Thailand.

National Teachers' Awards 2024

On September 5, 2024, India celebrated Teachers' Day with a prestigious ceremony in New Delhi, where **President Droupadi Murmu** conferred the **National Teachers' Award 2024** to 82

exceptional educators from across the country. This annual event, commemorating the birth anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, recognizes the pivotal role of teachers in shaping the nation's future.




Dept. of School Education & Literacy Awardees:

Sl. No.	Name of the Awardee	Designation	School Name & Address	State / UT of Org
1	Avinasha Sharma	Lecturer	GMSSSS NIT 3 Faridabad	Haryana
2	Sunil Kumar	Lecturer	GSSS Khargat	Himachal Pradesh
3	Pankaj Kumar Goyal	Teacher	GSSS Girls Barnala	Punjab
4	Rajinder Singh	Teacher	Govt. Primary School, Kothe Inder Singh Wale	Punjab
5	Baljinder Singh Brar	Vice Principal	Government Senior Secondary School 4JJ	Rajasthan
6	Hukam Chand Chaudhary	Teacher	Government Senior Secondary School BSF Bikaner	Rajasthan
7	Kusum Lata Gariya	Acting Head Teacher	Government Upper Primary School Veena	Uttarakhand
8	Chandralekha Damodar Mestri	Teacher	Satyawati Soiru Angle Higher Secondary School, Mashem Loliem	Goa
9	Chandreshkumar Bholashankar Borisagar	Acting Head Teacher	Navi Badhada Primary School, Badhada	Gujarat
10	Vinay Shashikant Patel	Principal	R.F. Patel High School, Vadadla	Gujarat
11	Madhav Prasad Patel	Teacher	Govt. Middle School Lidhora	Madhya Pradesh
12	Sunita Godha	Teacher	Govt. High School, Khajuria Sarang	Madhya Pradesh
13	K Sharda	Teacher	Govt. Upper Primary School Khedamara	Chhattisgarh
14	Narasimha Murthy H K	Teacher	Daffodils English School, Sanjaynagar-19	Karnataka
15	Dwiti Chandra Sahu	Teacher	Govt. High School Billesu	Odisha
16	Santosh Kumar Kar	Teacher	Jaya Durga High School, Narla Road	Odisha
17	Ashis Kumar Roy	Teacher	Sri Nara Singha Vidyapith, Atharakhai	West Bengal
18	Prasanta Kumar Marik	Head Teacher	Shalbagan G S F P School, 1 No. Gurdaha	West Bengal
19	Dr Urfana Amin	Master	BHSS Soura	Jammu and Kashmir
20	Ravi Kant Dwivedi	Head Teacher	Primary School Bhagesar	Uttar Pradesh
21	Shyam Prakash Maurya	Teacher	Upper Primary School Malhupur	Uttar Pradesh
22	Dr. Minakshi Kumari	Teacher	Shiv Ganga Girls Plus 2 High School Madhubani	Bihar
23	Sikendra Kumar Suman	Acting Head Teacher	New Primary School Tarahani	Bihar
24	K Suma	Teacher	GMS Dugnadab	A & N Islands
25	Sunita Gupta	Lecturer	Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Dhamangawn	Madhya Pradesh
26	Charu Sharma	Principal	Dr Rajendra Prasad Kendriya Vidyalaya, New Delhi	Delhi
27	Ashok Sengupta	Teacher	PM SHRI Kendriya Vidyalaya No.1 Jalahalli West, Kamagondannahalli	Karnataka
28	H N Girish	Lecturer	Government PU College for Girls NN0045 Hunsur, Mysuru	Karnataka
29	Narayanaswamy R	Head Teacher	Government High School Bashettihalli	Karnataka
30	Jyoti Panka	Teacher	PM SHRI Government Higher Secondary School Longding	Arunachal Pradesh
31	Lephizo Apon	Teacher	GHSS Dimapur, United Colony Ward-20	Nagaland
32	Nandita Chongtham	Teacher	Sagolband Rishikul Upper Primary School, Sagolband	Manipur
33	Yankila Lama	Teacher	Modern Senior Secondary School, Arithang	Sikkim





Sl. No.	Name of the Awardee	Designation	School Name & Address	State / UT of Org
34	Joseph Vanlalhruaia Sailo	Lecturer	Synod Higher Secondary School, Tuithiang Veng Aizawl	Mizoram
35	Everlasting Pyngrope	Principal	Myngken Christian Higher Secondary School, Bhoirymbong	Meghalaya
36	Dr Nani Gopal Debnath	Teacher	Netaji Subhas Vidyaniketan, Netaji Choumuhani	Tripura
37	Dipen Khanikar	Teacher	Chi Chia Bokuloni Girls High School, No3	Assam
38	Dr Asha Rani	Post Graduate Teacher	Plus 2 High School Chandankiyari, Bokaro	Jharkhand
39	Jinu George	Teacher	S.D.V.B.H.S.S, Alappuzha	Kerala
40	K Sivaprasad	Teacher	VPAUPS Kundur kunnu, Thachanattukara	Kerala
41	Midde Srinivasa Rao	Teacher	S.P.S Municipal High School Plus, Gudivada	Andhra Pradesh
42	Suresh Kunati	Teacher	ZP High School Urandur	Andhra Pradesh
43	Prabhakar Reddy Pesara	Teacher	ZPSS Thirumalayapalem	Telangana
44	Thaduri Sampath Kumar	Teacher	ZPHS Dammannapet	Telangana
45	Pallavi Sharma	Principal	Mamta Modern Sr. Sec. School, Vikaspuri	Delhi
46	Charu Maini	Principal	DAV Public School Sector 48-49, Gurugram	Haryana
47	Gopinath R	Teacher	Panchayat Union Middle School – Rajakuppam	Tamil Nadu
48	Muralidharan Ramiya Sethuraman	Vocational Teacher	TVS Higher Secondary School, Madurai	Tamil Nadu
49	Mantaiah Chinni Bedke	Teacher	Z.P. Upper Primary Digital School Jajavandi	Maharashtra
50	Sagar Chittaranjan Bagade	Teacher	Sou S.M. Lohia High School & Junior College, Kolhapur	Maharashtra

Dept. of Higher Education Awardees:

Sl. No.	Name of the Awardee	Designation	Name & Address of the Institute	State / UT of Org
1	Prof. Anitha Suseelan	Head	School of Architecture at Christ University, Bangalore	Karnataka
2	Prof. Birinchi Kumar Sarma	Professor	Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi	Uttar Pradesh
3	Dr. C. Jaya Sankar Babu	Associate Professor	Department of Hindi, Puducherry University	Puducherry
4	Dr. A. Gandhimathi	Lecturer	Department of English, Polytechnic College, Salem	Tamil Nadu
5	Prof. Kapil Ahuja	Professor	Department of Computer Science and Engineering, IIT Indore	Madhya Pradesh
6	Prof. S.R. Keshava	Professor	Department of Economics, Bangalore University	Karnataka
7	Dr. Nandavaram Mrudula Babu	Associate Professor & Head	Department of Telugu, Govt. Degree College for Women, Hyderabad	Telangana
8	Prof. Nidhi Jain	Professor	Department of Chemistry, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi	New Delhi
9	Prof. Nilabh Tiwari	Head	Department of Education, Central Sanskrit University	New Delhi
10	Prof. Parmar Ranjitkumar Khimjibhai	Head	Department of Electrical Engineering, Government Polytechnic, Junagadh	Gujarat
11	Prof. Shahanaz Ayub	Associate Professor	Department of Electronics & Communication Engineering, Bundelkhand Institute of Engineering, Jhansi	Uttar Pradesh





Sl. No.	Name of the Awardee	Designation	Name & Address of the Institute	State / UT of Org
12	Prof. Shilpagauri Prasad	Associate Professor	Department of English, PDEA's Prof. Ramkrishna More Arts, Commerce and Science College, Pune	Maharashtra
13	Dr. Shimi S.L.	Associate Professor	Electrical Engineering Department, Punjab Engineering College	Chandigarh
14	Prof. A.S. Smiline Girija	Head	Department of Microbiology, Saveetha Dental College and Hospitals, SIMATS, Saveetha University, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
15	Prof. Srinivas Hotha	Professor	Department of Chemistry, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Pune	Maharashtra
16	Prof. Vinay Sharma	Professor	Department of Management Studies & Joint Professor with the Department of Design, IIT Roorkee	Uttarakhand

Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Awardees:

Sl. No.	Name of the Awardee	Name & Address of the Institute	State / UT of Org
1	Smt. Kadia Darshanaben Jishneshkumar	ITI, Dashrath	Gujarat
2	Shri Radhakrishnan PK	Govt. ITI, Kozhikode	Kerala
3	Shri Muhammad Akbar M	Govt. ITI, Koyilandy	Kerala
4	Shri Prashant Dixit	Govt. Divisional ITI, Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh
5	Shri Tinku	Govt. ITI, Pusa	New Delhi
6	Shri Vivek Chandaliya	Govt. ITI, Kolhapur	Maharashtra
7	Ms. Natasha Oreste Carvalho	Govt. ITI, Mapusa	Goa
8	Smt. Premlata Rahangdale	Govt. Divisional ITI, Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh
9	Shri Shivalingaiah K.J.	Govt. ITI, Mysuru	Karnataka
10	Shri Utpal Saikia	North East Skill Centre, Guwahati	Assam
11	Shri Vijay Ganapati Chari	Govt. ITI, Cacora	Goa
12	Ms. Sarita Devi	Govt. ITI, Shamshi	Himachal Pradesh
13	Shri Jitendra Jangir	NSTI, Patna	Bihar
14	Smt. B Pavlin Priya	NSTI, Chennai	Tamil Nadu
15	Dr. Jyoti Jain	MSME, Firozabad	Uttar Pradesh
16	Smt. Vanamala Swapna	National Institute for MSME, Hyderabad	Telangana

Paris Paralympics 2024: Full List of Winners

India concluded its most successful Paralympic campaign ever at the **2024 Paris Paralympics**, securing an unprecedented **29 medals**.

The flag bearers for India at the 2024 Paris Paralympics opening and closing ceremonies were:

- Opening ceremony: Bhagyashree Jadhav and Sumit Antil
- Closing ceremony: Preethi Pal and Harvinder Singh

This impressive tally included:

- **7 gold** medals
- **9 silver** medals
- **13 bronze** medals




Indian medal winners at Paris 2024 Paralympics

No.	Athlete	Sport	Event	Medal
1	Avani Lekhara	Shooting	Women's 10m Air Rifle Standing SH1	Gold
2	Mona Agarwal	Shooting	Women's 10m Air Rifle Standing SH1	Bronze
3	Preethi Pal	Athletics	Women's 100m T35	Bronze
4	Manish Narwal	Shooting	Men's 10m Air Pistol SH1	Silver
5	Rubina Francis	Shooting	Women's 10m Air Pistol SH1	Bronze
6	Preethi Pal	Athletics	Women's 200m T35	Bronze
7	Nishad Kumar	Athletics	Men's High Jump T47	Silver
8	Yogesh Kathuniya	Athletics	Men's Discus Throw F56	Silver
9	Nitesh Kumar	Badminton	Men's Singles SL3	Gold
10	Thulasimathi Murugesan	Badminton	Women's Singles SU5	Silver
11	Manisha Ramadass	Badminton	Women's Singles SU5	Bronze
12	Suhas Yathiraj	Badminton	Men's Singles SL4	Silver
13	Rakesh Kumar / Sheetal Devi	Archery	Mixed Team Compound Open	Bronze
14	Sumit Antil	Athletics	Javelin Throw F64	Gold
15	Nithya Sre Sivan	Badminton	Women's Singles SH6	Bronze
16	Deepthi Jeevanji	Athletics	Women's 400m T20	Bronze
17	Mariyappan Thangavelu	Athletics	Men's High Jump T63	Bronze
18	Sharad Kumar	Athletics	Men's High Jump T63	Silver
19	Ajeet Singh	Athletics	Men's Javelin Throw F46	Silver
20	Sundar Singh Gurjar	Athletics	Men's Javelin Throw F46	Bronze
21	Sachin Khilari	Athletics	Men's Shot Put F46	Silver
22	Harvinder Singh	Archery	Men's Individual Recurve Open	Gold
23	Dharambir	Athletics	Men's Club Throw F51	Gold
24	Parnav Soorma	Athletics	Men's Club Throw F51	Silver
25	Kapil Parmar	Judo	Men's -60kg J1	Bronze
26	Praveen Kumar	Athletics	Men's High Jump T64	Gold
27	Hokato Hotozhe Sema	Athletics	Men's Shot Put F57	Bronze
28	Simran	Athletics	Women's 200m T12	Bronze
29	Navdeep Singh	Athletics	Men's Javelin Throw F41	Gold

India's medals at Paris 2024 Paralympics sport-by-sport

Sport	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Archery	1	0	1	2
Athletics	4	6	7	17
Badminton	1	2	2	5
Judo	0	0	1	1
Shooting	1	1	2	4
TOTAL	7	9	13	29





Paris 2024 Paralympics medals tally

Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	People’s Republic of China	94	76	50	220
2	Great Britain	49	44	31	124
3	United States of America	36	42	27	105
4	Netherlands	27	17	12	56
5	Brazil	25	26	38	89
18	India	7	9	13	29

Swachh Vayu Survekshan 2024

In a significant recognition of efforts to combat air pollution, the **Union Environment Ministry** has presented the “**National Clean Air City**” Awards during the **Swachh Vayu Survekshan 2024**. This event, held as part of a national workshop celebrating the “**International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies**” in Jaipur on Saturday, showcased the remarkable strides made by various Indian cities in improving their air quality.

Top Performers: A City-wise Breakdown

The awards were categorized based on population size, acknowledging the unique challenges and achievements of cities across different scales.

Major Cities (Population over 10 lakh)

- Surat, Gujarat:** Emerged as the top major city in India for air quality improvements
- Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh:** Secured the second position
- Agra, Uttar Pradesh:** Ranked third among large cities

Medium-sized Cities (Population between 3 lakh and 10 lakh)

- Firozabad, Uttar Pradesh**
- Amravati, Maharashtra**
- Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh**

These cities were recognized for their significant efforts in implementing air quality improvement measures.

Smaller Cities (Population under 3 lakh)

- Raebareli, Uttar Pradesh**
- Nalgonda, Telangana**
- Nalagarh, Himachal Pradesh**

The inclusion of smaller cities in the awards highlights the importance of air quality management across all urban scales in India.

US Open 2024, Complete list of Winners

The 2024 US Open, held from August 19 to September 8 at **Flushing Meadows**, Queens, New York City, concluded with groundbreaking victories in both the men’s and women’s singles

categories. **Jannik Sinner** of Italy and **Aryna Sabalenka** of Belarus emerged as champions, each claiming their first US Open title and adding to their growing list of Grand Slam achievements.

Winners List of the 2024 US Open

Event	Winner (Nationalities)	Runners-UP (Nationalities)
Men’s Single	Jannik Sinner (Italy)	Taylor Fritz (USA)
Women’s Single	Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus)	Jessica Pegula (USA)
Men’s Double	Max Purcell and Jordan Thompson (Both Australian)	Kevin Krawietz and Tim Puetz (Both from Germany)
Women’s Double	Lyudmyla Kichenok (Ukraine)and Jelena Ostapenko (Latvia)	Kristina Mladenovic (France) and Zhang Shuai (China)
Mixed Doubles	Sara Errani and Andrea Vavassori (Both from Italy)	Donald Young and Taylor Townsend (Both American)

National Florence Nightingale Awards 2024

On September 11, 2024, the **President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu**, presided over a distinguished ceremony at **Rashtrapati Bhavan** to present the **National Florence Nightingale Awards** for the year 2024. This prestigious event recognized outstanding contributions in the field of nursing, highlighting the crucial role that nursing professionals play in the healthcare system.

Categories of Awards

The 2024 National Florence Nightingale Awards were presented in three main categories:

- ANM (Auxiliary Nurse Midwife):** Recognizing grassroots-level healthcare workers.
- LHV (Lady Health Visitor):** Honoring supervisory nursing personnel.
- Nurse:** Acknowledging registered nurses across various specializations.





The Awardees

This year's awards celebrated the diverse contributions of nursing professionals from across India. The recipients represented various states and union territories, reflecting the nationwide impact of nursing excellence.

Table of Awardees

S.No.	Category	Name	State/UT
1	ANM	Smt. Sheela Mondal	Andaman & Nicobar
2	ANM	Ms. Iken Lollen	Arunachal Pradesh
3	ANM	Ms. Vidjeyacoumary V	Puducherry
4	ANM	Ms. Januka Pandey	Sikkim
5	ANM	Smt. Anindita Pramanik	West Bengal
6	LHV	Ms. Brahmacharimayum Amusana Devi	Manipur
7	Nurse	Maj Gen Ignatius Delos Flora	Delhi
8	Nurse	Ms. Prem Rose Suri	Delhi
9	Nurse	Dr. Tabasum Irshad Handoo	Jammu & Kashmir
10	Nurse	Dr. Nagarajaiah	Karnataka
11	Nurse	Ms. Shamshad Beegum Attalada	Lakshadweep
12	Nurse	Ms. Asha Wamanrao Bawane	Maharashtra
13	Nurse	Ms. H Mankimi	Mizoram
14	Nurse	Ms. Sanjukta Sethi	Odisha
15	Nurse	Mr. Radhey Lal Sharma	Rajasthan

TIME's World's Best Companies 2024

TIME magazine's **World's Best Companies of 2024** list has brought significant recognition to Indian businesses, highlighting their growing influence on the global stage. This prestigious ranking, which includes 1000 companies worldwide, features **22 Indian-born enterprises** this year, showcasing the country's expanding corporate footprint and economic prowess.

TIME World's Best Companies of 2024

Rank	Company Name	Headquarters	Overall Score	Industry
1	Apple	United States	97.75	IT, Electronics, Hardware & Equipment
2	Accenture	Ireland	97.70	Professional Services
3	Microsoft	United States	97.65	IT, Electronics, Hardware & Equipment
4	BMW Group	Germany	97.41	Automotive Industry & Suppliers
5	Amazon	United States	96.47	Technology, Media & Services
6	Electricite de France	France	96.22	Utilities
7	American Express	United States	96.08	Banking & Financial Services
8	Meta Platforms	United States	96.04	Technology, Media & Services
9	Siemens	Germany	95.96	Conglomerate
10	JPMorgan Chase	United States	95.93	Banking & Financial Services





Below is a tabular representation of all Indian companies featured in TIME's World's Best Companies 2024 list:

Company Name	Global Rank	Score
HCLTech	112	91.75
Infosys	119	91.55
Wipro	134	91.29
Mahindra Group	187	90.57
Axis Bank	504	86.72
State Bank of India	518	86.56
ICICI Bank	525	86.43
Larsen & Toubro	549	86.12
Kotak Mahindra Bank	551	86.10
ITC Limited	586	85.60
Hero MotoCorp	597	85.50
Reliance Industries	646	84.87
Motherson Group	697	84.19
Adani Group	736	83.72
NTPC Limited	752	83.45
Yes Bank	783	82.64
Bank of Baroda	850	80.96
Godrej & Boyce	921	78.30
Bajaj Group	952	76.39
Cipla	957	76.04
Bharat Electronics Limited	987	73.69
MRF	993	72.98

Emmy Awards 2024, Complete List of Winners

The **76th Primetime Emmy Awards ceremony**, held at the **Peacock Theater** in Los Angeles on September 16, 2024, marked a significant event in the television industry. This prestigious award show, honouring excellence in primetime television programming, rolled out the red carpet for the second time in just one year, creating a buzz of excitement among TV enthusiasts and industry professionals alike.

Major Winners and Highlights

Outstanding Drama Series: Shōgun Dominates

The night's biggest winner was FX's sensational **Japan-set historical drama series Shōgun**, which claimed the coveted title of **Outstanding Drama Series**. This triumph was just the beginning of Shōgun's impressive run, as the show went on to secure a total of four major awards:

- Outstanding Drama Series**
- Best Lead Actor in a Drama Series:** Hiroyuki Sanada

- Best Lead Actress in a Drama Series:** Anna Sawai
 - Best Directing for a Drama Series:** Frederick E. O. Toye
- The sweeping success of Shōgun underscores the growing appreciation for international storytelling and period dramas in mainstream American television.





Here is the full list of Emmy Awards 2024 Winners

Category	Winner
Outstanding Drama Series	Shogun
Outstanding Comedy Series	Hacks
Outstanding Limited or Anthology Series	Baby Reindeer
Lead Actor, Drama	Hiroyuki Sanada, Shogun
Lead Actress, Drama	Anna Sawai, Shogun
Lead Actor, Comedy	Jeremy Allen White, The Bear
Lead Actress, Comedy	Jean Smart, Hacks
Lead Actor, Limited Series or Movie	Richard Gadd, Baby Reindeer
Lead Actress, Limited Series or Movie	Jodie Foster, True Detective: Night Country
Supporting Actor, Drama	Billy Crudup, The Morning Show
Supporting Actress, Drama	Elizabeth Debicki, The Crown
Supporting Actor, Comedy	Ebon Moss-Bachrach, The Bear
Supporting Actress, Comedy	Liza Colon-Zayas, The Bear
Supporting Actor, Limited Series or Movie	Lamorne Morris, Fargo
Supporting Actress, Limited Series or Movie	Jessica Gunning, Baby Reindeer
Outstanding Reality or Competition Program	Traitors
Best Scripted Variety Series	Last Week Tonight With John Oliver
Outstanding Writing for a Variety Special	Alex Edelman, Just for Us
Outstanding Directing for Limited Series or Movie	Steven Zaillian, Ripley
Outstanding Writing, Comedy	Hacks
Outstanding Talk Show	The Daily Show
Outstanding Writing for a Drama Series	Will Smith, Slow Horses
Best Writing, Limited Series	Richard Gadd, Baby Reindeer
Outstanding Directing for Comedy Series	Christopher Storer, The Bear
Best Directing for Drama Series	Frederick E. O. Toye, Shogun

ICC Players of the Month for August 2024

In a remarkable achievement for Sri Lankan cricket, the **International Cricket Council (ICC)** announced that **Dunith Wellalage** and **Harshitha Samarawickrama** have been named the **ICC Players of the Month for August 2024**. This rare double victory marks a significant milestone for Sri Lanka in international cricket.

Previous Double Wins

This is only the second instance in ICC history where players from the same country have won both the men's and women's awards in the same month. The previous occurrence was in June 2024, when India's **Jasprit Bumrah** and **Smriti Mandhana** achieved this feat.

Dunith Wellalage: Rising Star in Men's Cricket

Triumph Over Strong Contenders

Wellalage's victory in the men's category came against stiff competition. He edged out South African spinner **Keshav**

Maharaj and West Indies fast bowler **Jayden Seales**, who were also shortlisted for the award.

Outstanding Performance Against India

The 31-year-old left-hander secured the award following his exceptional performance in a home **One Day International (ODI) series against India**. Wellalage's all-round brilliance was instrumental in Sri Lanka's **2-0 series victory**. His contributions included:

- Batting performances: Scores of 67 not out, 39, and 2
- Bowling prowess: A total of 7 wickets in the series
- Standout moment: A five-wicket haul (5/27) in the third match

Sri Lanka's Growing Presence in ICC Awards

Wellalage's win marks the **fifth time** a Sri Lankan player has claimed the men's monthly award. Previous winners include:

1. Angelo Mathews (May 2022)
2. Prabath Jayasuriya (July 2022)





3. Wanindu Hasaranga (June 2023)
4. Kamindu Mendis (March 2024)

Harshitha Samarawickrama: Trailblazer in Women's Cricket

Exceptional Tour of Ireland

Samarawickrama's stellar performances on the tour of Ireland set her apart from other contenders. She narrowly beat out Irish players **Orla Prendergast** and **Gaby Lewis** for the award.

T20I Brilliance

In the **Twenty20 International (T20I)** series in Dublin, Samarawickrama showcased her batting prowess:

- Total runs: 151 in two matches
- Impressive strike rate: 169.66
- Highlight: A match-winning 86 not out off 45 balls in the first T20I

ODI Mastery

Samarawickrama continued her form in the **One Day International (ODI)** series in Belfast:

- Aggregate runs: 172 in three matches
- Strike rate: 82.69
- Historic achievement: Scored 105 in the second ODI, becoming only the third Sri Lankan woman to score a century in ODIs

Centre Notifies Appointment Of Chief Justices Of 8 High Courts

The **Central Government, through the Ministry of Law and Justice**, notified the **appointment of Chief Justices to eight High Courts** to fill key judicial positions and ensure the smooth functioning of the judicial system in various states. Union Law Minister (Independent Charge) **Arjun Ram Meghwal** announced the **appointment of Chief Justices to eight High Courts**.

Background

The **Supreme Court Collegium**, in its recommendations regarding the appointment of Chief Justices, originally made proposals on July 11, 2023. However, on September 17, 2023, the **Collegium altered some of its earlier recommendations** concerning the appointment of Chief Justices to four High Courts.

New Appointments

1. **Justice Manmohan**(presently Acting CJ of Delhi High Court) – Chief Justice of Delhi High Court.
2. **Justice Rajiv Shakdher** (presently Judge of Delhi HC) – Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh High Court.
3. **Justice Suresh Kumar Kait** (Judge of Delhi HC) – Chief Justice of Madhya Pradesh High Court.
4. **Justice Indra Prasanna Mukerji** (Judge of Calcutta HC) – Chief Justice of Meghalaya High Court.
5. **Justice Nitin Madhukar Jamdar** (Judge of Bombay HC) – Chief Justice of Kerala High Court.

6. **Justice Tashi Rabstan** (Judge of J&K&L HC) – Chief Justice of Jammu & Kashmir & Ladakh High Court.
7. **Justice KR Shriram** (Judge of Bombay HC) – Chief Justice of Madras High Court.
8. **Justice MS Ramachandra Rao** (presently CJ of HP HC) – Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court.

Global Innovation Index 2024

India has climbed to the **39th position among 133 global economies** in the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2024, as announced by **Union Minister Piyush Goyal**. **India also ranked 1st among 10 economies** in the Central and Southern Asian region and led the lower-middle-income economies group. The country was **81st in 2015 and rose to 39th** due to its thriving innovation ecosystem, powered by entrepreneurs, startups, and public-private partnerships.

Key Achievements

India ranked 1st in Central & Southern Asia and among lower-middle-income economies, **4th in WIPO's Science & Technology Cluster Rankings**, with cities like Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, and Chennai in the global top 100 S&T clusters. India also ranked **7th globally in intangible asset intensity**.

Global Performance Overview

"In Central and Southern Asia, India (39th) continues to lead, advancing by one spot. The Islamic Republic of Iran (64th, down by two places) follows, with Kazakhstan (78th) in third place. Uzbekistan (83rd) retains its 4th position within the region."

India's continued rise is part of a broader innovation trend, with China, Turkey, Vietnam, and the Philippines among the fastest climbers in the last decade. Switzerland, Sweden, the US, Singapore, and the UK remain the world's top innovators.

Global rankings:

1. Switzerland (Number 1 in 2023)
2. Sweden (2)
3. United States of America (3)
4. Singapore (5)
5. United Kingdom (4)
6. Republic of Korea (10)
7. Finland (6)
8. Netherlands (Kingdom of the) (7)
9. Germany (8)
10. Denmark (9)
11. China (12)
12. France (11)
13. Japan (13)
14. Canada (15)
15. Israel (14)
16. Estonia (16)
17. Austria (18)
18. Hong Kong, China (17)
19. Ireland (22)
20. Luxembourg (21)





Central and Southern Asia region in the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2024:

GII Rank	Economy	Income Group Rank	Region Rank
39	India	1	1
64	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	6	2
78	Kazakhstan	25	3
83	Uzbekistan	10	4
88	Pakistan	12	5
90	Sri Lanka	13	6
105	Bangladesh	22	7
106	Kyrgyzstan	23	8
108	Nepal	24	9
111	Tajikistan	27	10

Hurun India Under-35 List 2024

The **Hurun India Under-35 list for 2024** has emerged as a prestigious recognition of India’s young entrepreneurial talent, highlighting the achievements of 150 entrepreneurs aged 35 or younger. This comprehensive list spans various industries, from retail giants to innovative tech startups, showcasing the diverse and dynamic nature of India’s business landscape.

Prominent Figures: The Faces of Young Indian Entrepreneurship

Ambani Siblings: Continuing a Legacy of Innovation

Among the most notable names on the list are **Isha Ambani** and **Akash Ambani**, scions of the Reliance Industries empire. Their inclusion highlights the growing influence of next-generation leadership in established business houses.

Isha Ambani: Retail Powerhouse

- **Age:** 32 years old
- **Position:** Non-executive director at **Reliance Retail**
- **Significance:** One of the youngest women on the list, representing the future of India’s retail sector

Akash Ambani: Telecom Titan

- **Position:** Chairman of **Reliance Jio Infocomm**
- **Ranking:** 32nd position on the list
- **Impact:** Leading Reliance’s charge in the telecom and digital services sector

Alakh Pandey: Revolutionizing Education

Alakh Pandey, founder of Physics Wallah, stands out as a prime example of how technology is transforming education in India. His inclusion in the list underscores the growing importance of edtech in the country’s entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Women Entrepreneurs: Breaking Barriers and Setting Trends

Youngest Women on the List

1. **Isha Ambani** (32 years old) – Reliance Retail
2. **Parita Parekh** (32 years old) – Toddle (Education technology platform)

Other Notable Women Entrepreneurs

- **Aneri Patel, Aneesa Tiwari, and Anjali Merchant** (33-34 years old): Continuing family businesses
- **Saloni Anand** (34 years old): Traya Health (Hair care sector)
- **Ghazal Alagh** (35 years old): CEO of Mama Earth (Recently went public)

India’s Historic Triumph at the 2024 Chess Olympiad

The 2024 Chess Olympiad in **Budapest, Hungary** has etched itself into the annals of Indian sports history. In an unprecedented achievement, India secured **gold medals** in both the men’s and women’s team categories, marking a watershed moment for chess in the country.

Dominant Performances in the Final Round

Both Indian teams showcased their prowess in the decisive final round:

- **Men’s Team:** Achieved a commanding 3.5-0.5 victory over Slovenia
- **Women’s Team:** Mirrored the men’s success with a 3.5-0.5 win against Azerbaijan

This dual triumph places India in an elite group, joining only **China** and the former **Soviet Union** as nations to have won gold in both categories in a single Olympiad edition.

Men’s Team: A Golden First

Breaking New Ground

The men’s team’s gold medal represents a significant leap forward from their previous achievements:

- **Bronze medals** in 2014 and 2022
- First-ever **gold medal** in 2024

Young Talents Shine

India’s victory was spearheaded by a group of prodigious young players:

- **D Gukesh** (18 years old): World Championship challenger
- **Arjun Erigaisi** (21 years old): Delivered crucial wins
- **R Praggnanandhaa** (19 years old): Regained form in the final round
- **Vidit Gujrathi** (29 years old): Secured a draw on the fourth board

The performance of these young stars underscores India’s bright future in chess.

Women’s Team: Making History

First-Ever Gold Medal

The women’s team’s triumph is particularly significant:

- **First gold medal** in the Chess Olympiad
- Improvement from **bronze medal** in 2022 (Chennai)

Key Players in the Final Round

- **D Harika** (33 years old): Displayed technical mastery on the top board





- **Divya Deshmukh** (18 years old): Outclassed opponent Givhar Beydullayeva, securing individual gold on the third board
- **Vantika Agrawal**: Emerged victorious
- **R Vaishali**: Held her ground with a draw

Best Tourism Villages Competition-2024

The Ministry of Tourism in Government of India announced the winners of the Best Tourism Villages Competition 2024 on the occasion of World Tourism Day 2024. This award competition was the 2nd edition since its launching.

Best Tourism Villages Competition-2024 Winner

S.No	Name	State	Categories
1.	Dhudmars	Chattisgarh	Adventure Tourism
2.	Aru	J & K	
3.	Kuthlur	Karnataka	
4.	Jakhol	Uttarakhand	
5.	Baranagar	West Bengal	Agri Tourism
6.	Kumarakom	Kerala	
7.	Karde	Maharashtra	
8.	Hansali	Punjab	
9.	Supi	Uttra khand	
10.	Chitrakote	Chattisgarh	Community Based Tourism
11.	Minicoy Island	Lakshadweep	
12.	Sialsuk	Mizoram	
13.	Deomali	Rajasthan	
14.	Alpana Gram	Tripura	
15.	Sualkuchi	Assam	Craft
16.	Maniabandha	Odisha	
17.	Pranpur	Madhya Pradesh	
18.	Umden	Meghalaya	
19.	Nirmal	Telangana	
20.	Hafeshwar	Gujarat	Heritage
21.	Andro	Manipur	
22.	Mawphlang	Meghalaya	
23.	Keeladi	Tamil Nadu	
24.	Pura Mahadev	Uttar Pradesh	
25.	Dudhani	Dadra Nagar Haveli	Responsible Tourism
26.	Kadalundi	Kerala	
27.	Tar Village	Ladakh	
28.	Sabarvani	Madhya Pradesh	
29.	Ladpura Khas	Madhya Pradesh	
30.	Bandora	Goa	Spiritual And Wellness
31.	Rikhiapeeth	Jharkhand	
32.	Melkalingam Patti	Tamil Nadu	
33.	Somasila	Telangana	
34.	Ahobilam	Andhra Pradesh	
35.	Harshil	Uttrakhand	Vibrant Village
36.	Gunji	Uttrakhand	





Most Important Current Affairs of August 2024

Neeraj Chopra Clinches Silver in Javelin at Paris 2024 Olympics

Neeraj Chopra, the reigning Olympic champion, put on an impressive display at the Paris Olympics, winning the silver medal in the men's javelin throw event. Chopra's season-best throw of **89.45m** earned him the runner-up position, but he was unable to defend his title, as Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem broke the **Olympic record** with a stunning throw of **92.97m**.

Chopra, who was the defending champion coming into the competition, was unable to replicate his gold-medal-winning performance from the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. However, his silver-medal finish is still a remarkable achievement, as he continues to establish himself as one of the world's premier javelin throwers.

Arshad Nadeem's Historic Gold Medal

The true star of the event was Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem, who produced a remarkable performance to claim the gold medal. Nadeem's record-breaking throw of **92.97m** not only secured him the top spot on the podium but also etched his name in the Olympic history books.

Nadeem's triumph is a significant accomplishment for Pakistan, as it marks the country's first-ever gold medal in the javelin throw event. The 25-year-old athlete's victory is a testament to his dedication, hard work, and the growing strength of Pakistan's sports program.

Anderson Peters Wins Bronze

Grenada's Anderson Peters rounded out the podium with a bronze-medal-winning throw of **88.54m**. Peters, a former world champion, demonstrated his consistency and skill, delivering a strong performance to secure the third spot.

The men's javelin throw event at the Paris Olympics was a true showcase of the sport's global talent and the fierce competition at the highest level. Neeraj Chopra's silver medal, Arshad Nadeem's record-breaking gold, and Anderson Peters' bronze have all contributed to the excitement and drama of the Games.

Significance of the Performances

Neeraj Chopra's silver medal is a significant achievement, as he continues to cement his status as one of the world's best javelin throwers. His consistent performances at the highest level have earned him widespread acclaim and respect in the sporting community.

Arshad Nadeem's historic gold medal triumph is a remarkable accomplishment that will inspire and motivate aspiring athletes in Pakistan and around the world. His record-breaking throw has set a new benchmark for the event and will undoubtedly spur on the next generation of javelin throwers to pursue their dreams.

The men's javelin throw event at the Paris Olympics has once again showcased the global reach and appeal of the sport. The podium finishers hailing from different countries – India, Pakistan, and Grenada – is a testament to the diversity and inclusivity of the Olympic Games.

Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar 2024

In a significant move to recognize and honor outstanding contributions to science, technology, and innovation, the Indian government has announced the inaugural **Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskars**. This new award system, replacing over 300 previous awards from various science departments, aims to celebrate the achievements of academics, technologists, and inventors across the country.

The Vigyan Ratna Puraskar: Honoring a Lifetime of Achievement

Dr. Govindarajan Padmanabhan: The First Recipient

The highest honor, the **Vigyan Ratna Puraskar**, has been awarded to **Dr. Govindarajan Padmanabhan**, a celebrated biochemist and former director of the Indian Institute of Science-Bengaluru. Dr. Padmanabhan, also a Padma Bhushan laureate, receives this lifetime achievement award in recognition of his significant contributions to the field of biochemistry.

Categories and Recipients

The government announced a total of 33 Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskars across various categories:

Vigyan Shri Awards

Thirteen scientists received the **Vigyan Shri** award for their distinguished contributions across different scientific domains.

Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Awards

Eighteen young scientists under the age of 45 were honored with the **Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar** awards, continuing the legacy of the prestigious Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar prize.

Vigyan Team Award

The **Team Chandrayaan-3** was recognized with the **Vigyan Team** award for their exceptional contribution to India's space program, particularly for the successful moon landing mission.

Award Ceremony and Significance

National Space Day Celebration

President Droupadi Murmu is expected to present these awards on **August 23**, designated as **National Space Day** to commemorate the landing of Chandrayaan-3 near the Moon's South Pole.

Consolidation of Science Awards

This new award system represents a significant consolidation of India's science honors. It replaces the previous system, which included the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar award, instituted in 1958 and named after the renowned chemist who was the first chairman of the University Grants Commission and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

Impact on Scientific Community

The introduction of the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskars is expected to have a profound impact on the Indian scientific community:

- Unified Recognition:** By consolidating various awards, it provides a unified platform for recognizing scientific excellence across disciplines.





- Encouraging Young Talent:** The Vigyan Yuva awards continue to focus on young scientists, encouraging innovation and research among the next generation of Indian scientists.
- Promoting Team Efforts:** The inclusion of a team award highlights the importance of collaborative research in modern scientific endeavors.
- National Prestige:** These awards elevate the status of scientific achievements to a national level, potentially inspiring more Indians to pursue careers in science and technology.

Table of Recipients

Award Category	Recipient(s)	Field
Vigyan Ratna Puraskar	Dr. Govindarajan Padmanabhan	Biochemistry
Vigyan Shri	Dr. Annapurini Subramanian	Astrophysics
	Dr. Anandharamakrishnan C	Agriculture Science
	Dr. Avesh Kumar Tyagi	Atomic Energy
	Prof. Umesh Varshney, Prof. Jayant Bhalchandra Udgaonkar	Biological Sciences
	Prof. Syed Wajih Ahmad Naqvi	Earth Sciences
	Prof. Bhim Singh	Engineering Sciences
	Prof. Adimurthi Adi, Prof. Rahul Mukherjee	Mathematics and Computer Science
	Prof. Dr. Sanjay Behari	Medicine
	Prof. Lakshmanan Muthusamy, Prof. Naba Kumar Mondal	Physics
	Prof. Rohit Srivastava	Technology and Innovation
Vigyan Yuva	Krishna Murthy SL, Swarup Kumar Parida	Agricultural Science
	Radhakrishnan Mahalakshmi, Prof. Aravind Penmatsa	Biological Sciences
	Vivek Polshettiwar, Vishal Rai	Chemistry
	Roxy Mathew Koll	Earth Sciences
	Abhilash, Radha Krishna Ganti	Engineering Sciences
	Purabi Saikia, Bappi Paul	Environmental Science
	Mahesh Ramesh Kakde	Mathematics and Computer Science
	Jitendra Kumar Sahu, Pragya Dhruv Yadav	Medicine
	Urbasi Sinha	Physics
	Digendranath Swain, Prashant Kumar	Space Science and Technology
	Prabhu Rajagopal	Technology and Innovation
Vigyan Team	Team Chandrayaan-3	Space Science

Top 10 Richest Global Central Banks in 2024

Central banks are the backbone of a nation's financial system, playing a pivotal role in maintaining **economic stability** and fostering **growth**. Their primary responsibilities include implementing **stable monetary policies** and ensuring **financial stability**. As we delve into the rankings of the world's wealthiest central banks in 2024, we gain valuable insights into the global economic landscape and the financial prowess of various nations.

The Significance of Central Bank Wealth

Economic Indicators

The total wealth of a central bank serves as a crucial indicator of a country's **economic health**. This wealth is primarily assessed through the central bank's **assets**, with the balance sheet acting

as a key metric. A robust central bank balance sheet often correlates with a strong and stable economy.

Regulatory Role

Central banks globally maintain specialized departments dedicated to **regulation and supervision**. These departments are staffed with experts who diligently monitor compliance with established financial laws and regulations, ensuring the integrity of the financial system.

Regional Dominance and Disparities

European Dominance

A striking observation in the 2024 rankings is the dominance of European central banks. Seven out of the top ten central banks are based in Europe, with a combined worth of an astounding





\$11.09 trillion. This underscores the economic strength and financial stability of the European region.

African Absence

Notably absent from the top 10 list are African central banks. This absence can be attributed to several challenges facing the region, including:

1. Rising inflation
2. Fragile financial markets
3. Weak monetary policy transmission systems

These factors highlight the economic disparities and developmental challenges that persist in certain regions.

India's Position

While not in the top 10, India's **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** holds a respectable 12th position globally. As of March 31, 2024, the RBI's balance sheet grew by **11.08%** year-on-year, reaching **Rs 70.47 trillion**. This growth is primarily attributed to the bank's liquidity management and foreign currency (forex) activities, reflecting India's growing economic influence on the global stage.

Top 10 Richest Central Banks in the World

Based on data compiled by the Sovereign Wealth Fund Institute (SWFI), here are the top 10 wealthiest central banks in the world by total assets:

Rank	Name of the Central Bank	Total Assets (USD)	Country	Region
1	Federal Reserve System	\$7,835,559,000,000	USA	North America
2	People's Bank of China	\$6,004,919,369,845	China	Asia
3	Bank of Japan	\$5,543,058,448,125	Japan	Asia
4	Deutsche Bundesbank	\$2,776,759,343,640	Germany	Europe
5	Bank of France	\$2,011,001,711,400	France	Europe
6	Norges Bank	\$1,632,986,563,336	Norway	Europe
7	Bank of Italy	\$1,383,293,987,542	Italy	Europe
8	Bank of England	\$1,288,250,668,160	United Kingdom	Europe
9	Bank of Spain	\$1,049,435,626,385	Spain	Europe
10	Swiss National Bank	\$944,013,351,477	Switzerland	Europe

Analysis of the Top 10

Global Distribution

The list showcases a diverse geographical representation:

- 1 North American central bank
- 2 Asian central banks
- 7 European central banks

Economic Powerhouses

The central banks featured in this list represent some of the world's largest and most significant economies. Their substantial asset bases reflect their crucial role in the global financial system.

Regional Observations

1. **North America:** The Federal Reserve System of the USA tops the list, highlighting the country's economic dominance.
2. **Asia:** China and Japan's central banks occupy the 2nd and 3rd positions, underscoring Asia's growing economic influence.
3. **Europe:** The strong presence of European central banks demonstrates the region's collective economic strength and financial stability.

Implications and Insights

Economic Influence

The vast assets held by these central banks signify their substantial influence on global economic policies and financial markets. Their decisions can have far-reaching consequences on international trade, currency valuations, and economic stability.

Financial Stability

The robust asset bases of these central banks provide a strong foundation for managing economic crises and implementing effective monetary policies. This financial strength is crucial for maintaining stability during economic turbulence.

Global Economic Balance

The distribution of wealth among these central banks reflects the current balance of economic power globally. It highlights the continued economic strength of traditional powerhouses while also showcasing the rising influence of emerging economies, particularly in Asia.

70th National Film Awards

The winners of the **70th National Film Awards** are announced at the **National Media Center in New Delhi** on August 16, with the **Malayalam film Aattam** emerging as the Best Feature Film.

70th National Film Awards 2024 winners

- **Rishab Shetty** won the **Best Actor award** for **Kantara**, the **Best Actress** honour was shared by **Nithya Menen** for **Thiruchitrambalam** and **Manasi Parekh** for **The Kutch Express**, respectively.
- The **Best Director** honour went to **Sooraj Barjatya** for his film, **Uunchai**. **Ponniyin Selvan I**, **KGF 2**, **Brahmastra** and **Aparajito** were among the other films which won awards at the ceremony.
- The awards were announced by the **chairperson of the Feature Film Jury**, **Rahul Rawail**; **Nila Madhab Panda**, chairperson of the **Non-Feature Film Jury**; and **Gangadhar Mudalair**, chairperson of the **Best Writing on Cinema Jury**.





2023 National Film Awards

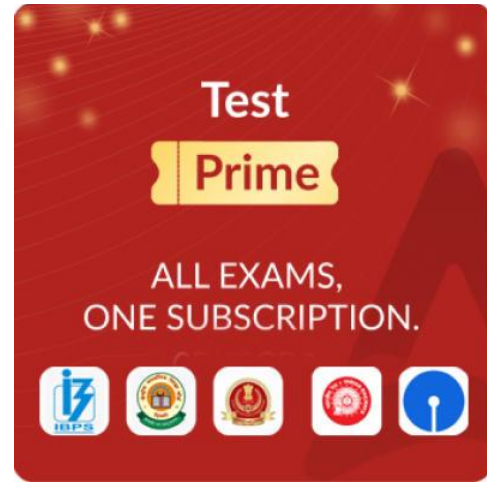
In 2023, the Best Actor honour was won by **Allu Arjun for Pushpa: The Rise** and the Best Actress award was won by **Alia Bhatt and Kriti Sanon for Gangubai Kathiawadi and Mimi**, respectively. Rocketry: The **Nambi Effect** won the award for Best Feature Film.

About National Film Awards

National Film Awards are the **most prestigious awards**, which are announced **annually** to honour the best filmmaking talent across the country. According to the Directorate of Film Festivals of the **Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**. The National Film Awards “aim at encouraging the production of films of aesthetic and technical excellence and social relevance.” History of this award

First handed out in 1954, these awards were known as the **State Awards**. In those years, only best films in different regional languages were recognised and awarded. The awards for actors and technicians working on the films were first given in 1967.

Nargis was the first actor to win **Best Actress** for her performance in **Raat Aur Din**. **Uttam Kumar** won the Best Actor award for **Antony Firingee** and **Chiriyakhana** in the same year.



List of 70th National Film Awards 2024 winners

Feature Film Categories

Category	Winner	Film
Best Feature Film	Aattam	Aattam
Best Actor	Rishab Shetty	Kantara
Best Actress	Nithya Menen, Manasi Parekh	Tiruchitrabalam, Kutch Express
Best Director	Sooraj Barjatya	Uunchai
Best Supporting Actress	Neena Gupta	Uunchai
Best Supporting Actor	Pawan Malhotra	Fouja
Best Feature Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment	Kantara	Kantara
Best Debut Film of a Director	Pramod Kumar	Fouja
Best Telugu Film	Karthikeya 2	Karthikeya 2
Best Tamil Film	Ponniyin Selvan – Part 1	Ponniyin Selvan – Part 1
Best Punjabi Film	Baaghi Di Dhee	Baaghi Di Dhee
Best Odia Film	Daman	Daman
Best Malayalam Film	Saudi Velakka CC.225/2009	Saudi Velakka CC.225/2009
Best Marathi Film	Vaalvi	Vaalvi
Best Kannada Film	KGF: Chapter 2	KGF: Chapter 2
Best Hindi Film	Gulmohar	Gulmohar
Best Tiwa Film	Sikaisal	Sikaisal
Best Bengali Film	Kaberi Antardhan	Kaberi Antardhan
Best Assamese Film	Emuthi Puthi	Emuthi Puthi
Special Mention	Manoj Bajpayee, Sanjoy Salil Chowdhury	Gulmohar, Kadhikan
Best Action Direction	KGF: Chapter 2	KGF: Chapter 2
Best Choreography	Tiruchitrabalam	Tiruchitrabalam
Best Lyrics	Fouja	Fouja
Best Music Director	Pritam (Songs), AR Rahman (Background Score)	Various
Best Makeup	Aparajito	Aparajito
Best Costumes	Kutch Express	Kutch Express
Best Production Design	Aparajito	Aparajito





Category	Winner	Film
Best Editing	Aattam	Aattam
Best Sound Design	Ponniyin Selvan – Part 1	Ponniyin Selvan – Part 1
Best Screenplay	Aattam	Aattam
Best Dialogues	Gulmohar	Gulmohar
Best Cinematography	Ponniyin Selvan – Part 1	Ponniyin Selvan – Part 1
Best Female Playback Singer	Bombay Jayashri	Saudi Velakka CC.225/2009
Best Male Playback Singer	Arijit Singh	Brahmastra
Best Child Artist	Sreepath	Mallikappuram
Best Film in AVGC	Brahmastra	Brahmastra
Best Non-Feature Film Promoting Social and Environmental Values	Kutch Express	Kutch Express

Film Writing

Category	Winner	Work
Best Critic	Deepak Dua	–
Best Book on Cinema	Kishore Kumar: The Ultimate Biography	–

Non-Feature Film Categories

Category	Winner	Film
Best Non-Feature Film	Ayena	Ayena
Best Debut Film	Madhyantara	Madhyantara
Best Biographical/Historical/Compilation Film	Aanakhi Ek Mohenjo Daro	Aanakhi Ek Mohenjo Daro
Best Arts/Culture Film	Ranga Vibhoga/Varsa	Ranga Vibhoga/Varsa
Best Script	Mono No Aware	Mono No Aware
Best Narrator	Murmurs of the Jungle	Murmurs of the Jungle
Best Music Direction	Fursat	Fursat
Best Editing	Madhyantara	Madhyantara
Best Sound Design	Yaan	Yaan
Best Cinematography	Mono No Aware	Mono No Aware
Best Direction	From the Shadow	From the Shadow
Best Short Film	Xunyota	Xunyota
Best Animated Film	The Coconut Tree	The Coconut Tree
Best Non-Feature Film Promoting Social and Environmental Values	On the Brink Season 2 – Gharial	On the Brink Season 2 – Gharial
Best Documentary	Murmurs of the Jungle	Murmurs of the Jungle

Paris Olympics 2024

The Paris Olympics 2024 marks a significant milestone in the history of the modern Olympic Games. This edition of the Summer Olympics is expected to bring together athletes from around the world in a celebration of sports, unity, and international cooperation. Here's a comprehensive look at the details of the Paris Olympics 2024:

Theme and Mascot of Paris Olympics 2024

- **The Phryges:** official mascots of the Paris 2024 Games
- The theme of this year's Olympic Day is **'Let's Move and Celebrate'** to inspire and encourage people to embrace the joy of movement this summer.

Olympic Games in a few figures

- **Billions** of television viewers worldwide





- **350,000** hours of TV broadcast
- **Millions** of spectators
- **35** venues
- **10,500** athletes
- **20,000** accredited journalists
- **45,000** volunteers
- **+600,000** meals served at the Athletes' Village every day

Paris 2024 Olympic Games key figures

- **The XXXIII (33rd) Olympiad**
- **26 July to 11 August 2024**
- **19 days of competition** (handball, football and rugby take place from 24 July)
- **329 events**
- **Athletes from over 200 NOCs and the IOC Refugee Olympic Team**
- **32 sports (including the 4 additional sports)**
- **754 sessions (competitions and ceremonies)**
- **10,500 athletes**

Paris Olympics Edition

- **Paris Olympics 2024:** This edition marks the 33rd Summer Olympic Games and the third time Paris will host the Olympics, with previous editions in 1900 and 1924. The Paris 2024 Olympics is particularly significant as it commemorates the centenary of the last Paris Olympics.

Top 10 Country in Medal Tally

Rank	NOCs	Gold Medals (G)	Silver Medals (S)	Bronze Medals (B)	Total Medals
1	United States of America	40	44	42	126
2	People's Republic of China	40	27	24	91
3	Japan	20	12	13	45
4	Australia	18	19	16	53
5	France	16	26	22	64
6	Netherlands	15	7	12	34
7	Great Britain	14	22	29	65
8	Republic of Korea	13	9	10	32
9	Italy	12	13	15	40
10	Germany	12	13	8	33
62	Pakistan	01	0	0	1
71	India	0	1	5	6

Indian Medal Tally

- Opening Ceremony: Badminton superstar PV Sindhu and table tennis ace Sharath Kamal;
- Closing Ceremony: Double bronze medal winning shooter Manu Bhaker and bronze winning Indian men's hockey player PR Sreejesh;
- Abhinav Bindra selected as torchbearer for the 2024 Paris Olympics;
- Gagan Narang Appointed as India's Chef-De-Mission for Paris Olympics 2024;
- A contingent of **117** Indian athletes has been competing for medals and sporting glory at the ongoing Paris Olympics 2024.

Athlete	Medal	Event
Manu Bhaker	Bronze	Women's 10m air pistol shooting
Manu Bhaker-Sarabjot Singh	Bronze	Mixed team 10m air pistol shooting
Swapnil Kusale	Bronze	Men's 50m rifle 3 positions shooting
Indian hockey team	Bronze	Men's hockey
Neeraj Chopra	Silver	Men's javelin throw
Aman Sehrawat	Bronze	Men's 57kg wrestling

CEAT Cricket Awards 2024

The **CEAT Cricket Awards**, one of the most prestigious accolades in the cricketing world, held its 26th edition on August 21, 2024, in Mumbai. These awards, initiated in **1995-96** and sponsored by the RP Goenka Group company CEAT Tyres, honor exceptional performances of cricketers globally. The 2024 ceremony recognized outstanding achievements during the 2023-24 cricketing season, showcasing the best talents across various formats of the game.

Major Awards and Recipients

International Cricketer of the Year

Rohit Sharma, the captain of the Indian men's cricket team, was bestowed with the coveted **CEAT International Cricketer of the Year Award**. This recognition came on the back of his exemplary performance in the 2023-24 season, during which:

- Sharma amassed approximately 1800 runs in international cricket.
- He scored 597 runs in the 13th ICC Men's ODI Cricket World Cup.
- Under his leadership, India reached the World Cup final, ultimately finishing as runners-up to Australia.

Sharma's consistent performance and leadership skills were key factors in his selection for this prestigious award.





ODI Batter of the Year

Virat Kohli received the award for the **Best ODI Batter of the Year**, following a phenomenal season in One Day Internationals. His achievements include:

- Scoring 1377 runs in the 2023-24 season.
- Accumulating six centuries and eight fifties.
- Leading the run charts in the 2023 ODI World Cup with 765 runs at an astounding average of 95.62.
- Surpassing Sachin Tendulkar’s record by scoring his 50th ODI century.

Kohli’s exceptional form and milestone achievements made him the clear choice for this award.

Lifetime Achievement Award

The **Lifetime Achievement Award** was presented to **Rahul Dravid**, former Indian cricket captain and current coach of the Indian men’s cricket team. Known as “The Wall” for his impeccable defensive technique, Dravid’s recent coaching success includes:

- Leading India to victory in the 9th ICC Men’s T20 World Cup in Barbados.
- Guiding the team to a triumph over South Africa in the final.

This award recognizes Dravid’s immense contribution to Indian cricket, both as a player and a coach.

Other Notable Awards

Test Cricket

- **Test Batter of the Year:** Yashashvi Jaiswal
- **Test Bowler of the Year:** Ravichandran Ashwin

ODI Cricket

- **ODI Bowler of the Year:** Mohammad Shami

T20 Cricket

- **T20 Batter of the Year:** Phil Salt (England)
- **T20 Bowler of the Year:** Tim Southee (New Zealand)

Domestic Cricket

- **Domestic Cricketer of the Year:** Sai Kishore (Left-arm spinner from Tamil Nadu)

Women’s Cricket

- **Women’s Batter of the Year:** Smriti Mandhana
- **Women’s Bowler of the Year:** Deepti Sharma

Special Recognitions

Several players and administrators received special mementos for their unique achievements:

- **Harmanpreet Kaur:** For captaining the most matches in Women’s T20I history.
- **Shreyas Iyer:** For outstanding leadership in the TATA IPL.
- **Shafali Verma:** For scoring the fastest double century in Women’s Test Match cricket.
- **Jay Shah:** Awarded for excellence in sports administration as the BCCI Secretary.

Key Takeaways From PM Modi Ukraine Visit

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has wrapped up his trip to **Ukraine**. Modi became the first Indian prime minister to make a state visit to Ukraine since the two countries established relations over three decades ago.

P.M Modi’s Ukraine visit

In his Ukraine visit some key outcomes to be noted, such as:

Homage to Mahatma Gandhi’s statue

Modi and Volodymyr Zelenskyy held wide-ranging talks at **Mariinskyi Palace**, the official residence of the Ukrainian President, paid homage to Mahatma Gandhi’s statue at ‘Oasis of Peace’ park in Kyiv.

Honored the memory of the children

P.M Modi honoured the memory of the children that have been killed by the Russia-Ukraine war at the Martyrologist Exposition on children at the **National Museum of History of Ukraine**.

Focusing on the development of a strategic partnership

“Following the visit, we also agreed on a **joint statement** focusing on the development of a strategic partnership, bilateral trade, and continued military-technical cooperation,” said the Ukrainian President, whose country is at **war with Russia**.

Joint India-Ukraine statement

PM Modi’s office in the joint **India-Ukraine statement** said both leaders reiterated their readiness for further cooperation in upholding principles of international law, including the UN Charter, such as respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty of states. “They agreed on the desirability of closer bilateral dialogue in this regard,” the joint statement said.

India is not neutral

“We (India) are not neutral. From the very beginning, we have taken sides. And we have chosen the side of peace. We have come from the land of Buddha where there is no place for war,” PM Modi said in his opening remarks during the talks. “We have come from the land of Mahatma Gandhi who had given a message of peace to the entire world,” he said.

Expansion and deepen bilateral trade

Both sides agreed to ask the Indian-Ukrainian Intergovernmental Commission (IGC) to explore all possible ways to not only restore bilateral trade and economic relations to pre-conflict levels, but expand and deepen them further. There has been a significant reduction in the annual bilateral trade in goods since 2022 due to the challenges related to the ongoing conflict.

Diplomatic balancing act

PM Modi’s visit to Kyiv is seen in many quarters as a diplomatic balancing act as his trip to Russia triggered anguish among some Western countries. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said PM Modi reiterated the need for “practical engagement” between all stakeholders to develop an innovative solution that will help build broad acceptability and contribute towards peace and stability.





Comprehensive reform of the UN Security Council

Both sides called for a comprehensive reform of the UN Security Council to reflect **contemporary global realities** and to make it more representative, effective and efficient in dealing with issues of **international peace and security**. Ukraine reiterated its support for **India's permanent membership** of a reformed and expanded **UN Security Council**.

Gol Approves Unified Pension Scheme for Government Employees

In a significant move to enhance retirement benefits for government employees, the Union Cabinet on Saturday approved the **Unified Pension Scheme (UPS)**. This new scheme is set to benefit approximately **23 lakh government employees** and will serve as an alternative to the existing National Pension System (NPS).

Background

The decision comes after a thorough review of the current pension system. In 2023, the finance ministry established a committee led by finance secretary TV Somanathan to evaluate the National Pension System for government employees. The NPS, which has been in effect since April 1, 2004, will now coexist with the newly introduced UPS.

Key Features of the Unified Pension Scheme

Assured Pension

One of the most notable features of the UPS is the **assured pension**. Employees who have completed a minimum qualifying service of 25 years will be entitled to a pension that is **50% of the average basic pay** drawn over the last 12 months prior to superannuation. This provision ensures a stable and substantial income for retirees.

For those with shorter service periods, a proportionate plan has been put in place. Employees with a minimum of 10 years of service will also be eligible for pension benefits, albeit at a reduced rate commensurate with their years of service.

Family Pension

The UPS also introduces an **assured family pension**. In the unfortunate event of an employee's death, their family will receive a pension at the rate of **60% of the employee's pension**. This provision offers crucial financial support to the families of deceased government employees.

Minimum Pension Guarantee

To ensure a basic standard of living for all retirees, the UPS establishes a **minimum pension of Rs. 10,000 per month**. This benefit is available to employees who have completed a minimum of 10 years of service and have reached superannuation.

Inflation Protection

Recognizing the impact of rising costs on retirees, the UPS includes provisions for **inflation indexation**. This feature applies to the assured pension, assured family pension, and the

minimum pension. Additionally, **Dearness Relief** will be provided based on the All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (AICPI-IW), similar to the benefit extended to current service employees.

Lump Sum Payment

Upon superannuation, employees will receive a **lump sum payment** in addition to their gratuity. This payment will be calculated as **1/10th of the monthly emoluments** (pay plus Dearness Allowance) as on the date of superannuation for every completed six months of service. Importantly, this lump sum payment will not reduce the quantum of the assured pension.

Eligibility and Implementation

The Unified Pension Scheme is set to take effect from **April 1, 2025**. However, its benefits will extend retroactively to those who have already retired or will retire up until March 31, 2025, with arrears being provided.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw highlighted that the scheme will positively impact approximately **23 lakh government employees**.

Transition from NPS to UPS

Current subscribers to the National Pension System will have the option to **switch to the UPS** from the next financial year. This flexibility allows employees to choose the scheme that best suits their retirement planning needs.

Most Important Current Affairs of July 2024

Economic Survey 2023-24: Key Highlights and Analysis

The **Economic Survey 2023-24**, presented by Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, provides a detailed overview of India's economic performance and future outlook. Here are the key highlights and analysis, organized by thematic chapters:

Chapter 1: State of the Economy – Steady as She Goes

- **GDP Growth Projection:** The Economic Survey conservatively projects a **real GDP growth of 6.5–7%**, with balanced risks, despite higher market expectations.
- **Momentum Maintenance:** India's economy continued its momentum from FY23 into FY24, facing minimal impact from external challenges due to macroeconomic stability.
- **Real GDP Growth:** Real GDP grew by **8.2% in FY24**, exceeding 8% in three out of four quarters.
- **Gross Value Added (GVA):** GVA grew by **7.2% in FY24** (at 2011-12 prices) and net taxes at constant prices grew by **19.1%**.
- **Inflation Management:** Retail inflation reduced from **6.7% in FY23 to 5.4% in FY24** due to effective administrative and monetary policies.
- **Current Account Deficit (CAD):** CAD improved to **0.7% of GDP in FY24** from 2.0% in FY23.





- **Post-Pandemic Recovery:** Real GDP in FY24 was **20% higher than FY20**, a notable recovery achieved by few major economies.
- **Tax Collection:** **55%** of tax collected from direct taxes, and **45%** from indirect taxes.
- **Welfare Programs:** Government ensured free food grains to **81.4 crore people** and progressively increased capital expenditure.

Chapter 2: Monetary Management and Financial Intermediation - Stability is the Watchword

- **Banking Sector Performance:** India's banking and financial sectors performed exceptionally well in FY24.
- **Policy Rate:** RBI maintained a steady policy rate, keeping the **policy repo rate at 6.5%**.
- **Credit Growth:** Credit disbursement by Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) reached **₹164.3 lakh crore**, growing by **20.2%** by March 2024.
- **Broad Money (M3) Growth:** Excluding HDFC merger, M3 grew by **11.2% YoY** as of 22 March 2024.
- **Non-Performing Assets (NPA):** Gross and net NPAs at multi-year lows, indicating improved bank asset quality.
- **Agriculture Credit:** Agriculture and allied activities saw double-digit credit growth in FY24.
- **Industrial Credit:** Industrial credit growth was **8.5%**, up from 5.2% the previous year.
- **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC):** **31,394 corporate debtors** involving **₹13.9 lakh crore** disposed off by March 2024.
- **Capital Markets:** Primary capital markets facilitated capital formation of **₹10.9 lakh crore** in FY24.
- **Market Capitalisation:** Indian stock market's market capitalisation to GDP ratio is the fifth largest in the world.
- **Financial Inclusion:** Digital Financial Inclusion (DFI) is the next big challenge for sustainable economic growth.

Chapter 3: Prices and Inflation - Under Control

- **Retail Inflation:** Maintained at **5.4%** in FY24, the lowest since the pandemic, due to timely policy interventions.
- **Fuel Prices:** Central Government announced price cuts for LPG, petrol, and diesel, keeping retail fuel inflation low.
- **LPG and Fuel Inflation:** LPG cylinder prices reduced by **₹200** in August 2023; petrol and diesel prices lowered by **₹2 per litre**.
- **Core Inflation:** Core services inflation eased to a nine-year low; core goods inflation declined to a four-year low.
- **Food Inflation:** Increased from **6.6% in FY23 to 7.5% in FY24** due to extreme weather events impacting farm output.
- **Inflation Management:** Dynamic stock management, open market operations, and subsidised food items helped mitigate food inflation.
- **State Inflation:** **29 States and UTs** recorded inflation below 6% in FY24.

Chapter 4: External Sector - Stability Amid Plenty

- **Geopolitical Challenges:** Despite geopolitical headwinds, India's external sector remained strong.
- **Logistics Performance Index:** Improved rank from **44th in 2018 to 38th in 2023** out of 139 countries.
- **Current Account Deficit:** Improved to **0.7% of GDP in FY24** due to moderation in imports and rising services exports.
- **Global Export Share:** India's share in global goods exports was **1.8% in FY24**.
- **Services Exports:** Grew by **4.9% to USD 341.1 billion**, driven by IT/software services and other business services.
- **Remittances:** India is the top remittance recipient globally with **USD 120 billion** in 2023.
- **External Debt:** External debt to GDP ratio was **18.7%** at the end of March 2024.

Chapter 5: Medium-Term Outlook – A Growth Strategy for New India

- **Policy Focus Areas:** Job and skill creation, agricultural potential, MSME bottlenecks, green transition, managing relations with China, deepening the corporate bond market, tackling inequality, and improving youth health.
- **Amrit Kaal Strategy:** Based on six key areas: boosting private investment, expanding MSMEs, agriculture as a growth engine, financing green transition, bridging education-employment gap, and building state capacity.
- **Growth Compact:** For 7%+ growth, a tripartite compact between the Union Government, State Governments, and the private sector is essential.

Chapter 6: Climate Change and Energy Transition: Dealing with Trade-Offs

- **Climate Action Recognition:** India is the only G20 nation aligned with a 2-degree centigrade warming target.
- **Renewable Energy:** Non-fossil sources reached **45.4%** of installed electricity generation capacity by 31 May 2024.
- **Emission Reduction:** Reduced emission intensity of GDP by **33% from 2005 levels by 2019**.
- **Energy Savings:** Total annual energy savings of **51 million tonnes of oil equivalent**, translating to annual cost savings of **₹1,94,320 Crore**.
- **Green Bonds:** Issued **₹16,000 Crore** in January-February 2023 and **₹20,000 Crore** in October-December 2023.

Chapter 7: Social Sector - Benefits that Empower

- **Welfare Impact:** Digitisation of healthcare, education, and governance has increased the impact per rupee spent.
- **Welfare Expenditure Growth:** Nominal GDP grew at **9.5% CAGR** while welfare expenditure grew at **12.8% CAGR** between FY18 and FY24.
- **Inequality Reduction:** Gini coefficient declined in both rural (from **0.283 to 0.266**) and urban (from **0.363 to 0.314**) sectors.
- **Ayushman Bharat:** **34.7 crore cards** generated, covering **7.37 crore hospital admissions**.





- **Mental Health Coverage:** 22 mental disorders covered under Ayushman Bharat – PMJAY.
- **Early Childhood Education:** 'Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi' programme aims to develop the world's largest, universal, high-quality preschool network at Anganwadi Centres.
- **Vidyanjali Initiative:** Enhanced educational experiences for 1.44 crore students through community engagement.
- **Higher Education Enrolment:** Faster growth in enrolment from underprivileged sections (SC, ST, OBC) with a 31.6% increase since FY15.
- **R&D Progress:** Nearly one lakh patents granted in FY24, up from less than 25,000 in FY20.
- **Housing and Roads:** Under PM-AWAS-Gramin, 2.63 crore houses constructed; 15.14 lakh km roads completed under Gram Sadak Yojana since 2014-15.

Chapter 8: Employment and Skill Development: Towards Quality

- **Labour Market Improvement:** Unemployment rate declined to 3.2% in 2022-23.
- **Urban Unemployment:** Declined to 6.7% in the quarter ending March 2024.
- **Workforce Distribution:** 45% in agriculture, 11.4% in manufacturing, 28.9% in services, and 13% in construction.
- **Youth Unemployment:** Declined from 17.8% in 2017-18 to 10% in 2022-23.
- **EPFO Payroll:** Significant growth in new subscribers, especially in the 18-28 years band.
- **Female Labour Force Participation:** Rising steadily for six years.
- **Manufacturing Sector Recovery:** Employment in organised manufacturing sector above pre-pandemic levels.
- **Wages Growth:** Rural wages grew at 6.9% CAGR, urban at 6.1% CAGR.
- **Factories Growth:** Number of factories employing over 100 workers grew by 11.8% over FY18 to FY22.
- **EPFO Membership:** Grew at 8.4% CAGR between FY15 and FY24.
- **Job Generation Requirement:** 78.5 lakh jobs annually needed in the non-farm sector until 2030.

Chapter 9: Agriculture and Food Management – Plenty of Upside Left If We Get It Right

- **Agriculture Growth:** Registered an average annual growth rate of 4.18% over the last five years.
- **Agricultural Credit:** Total credit disbursed to agriculture amounted to ₹22.84 lakh crore as of January 31, 2024.
- **Kisan Credit Cards:** 7.5 crore KCCs issued with a limit of ₹9.4 lakh crore.
- **Micro Irrigation:** 90.0 lakh hectares covered under 'Per drop more crop' from 2015-16 to 2023-24.

Chapter 10: Industry - Small and Medium Matters

- **Industrial Growth:** 9.5% growth rate supporting overall economic growth of 8.2% in FY24.

- **Manufacturing Sector:** Achieved an average annual growth rate of 5.2% over the last decade.
- **Coal Production:** Accelerated coal production reduced import dependence.
- **Pharmaceutical Market:** India is the world's third largest by volume with a valuation of USD 50 billion.
- **Clothing Manufacturing:** India is the second-largest globally and among the top five exporters.
- **Electronics Manufacturing:** Accounts for 3.7% of the global market share in FY22.
- **PLI Schemes:** Attracted over ₹1.28 lakh crore of investment until May 2024, leading to production/sales of ₹10.8 lakh crore and employment generation of over 8.5 lakh.

Chapter 11: Services - Fuelling Growth Opportunities

- **Services Sector Contribution:** 55% of overall GVA, back to pre-pandemic levels.
- **Active Companies:** 65% of the highest number of active companies are in the services sector.
- **Global Services Exports:** Constituted 4.4% of the world's commercial services exports in 2022.
- **Computer and Business Services Exports:** Accounted for 73% of India's services exports, with a 9.6% YoY growth.
- **Aviation Sector Growth:** 15% YoY increase in total air passengers handled.
- **Services Sector Credit:** ₹45.9 lakh crore in March 2024, with a 22.9% YoY growth.

Chapter 12: Infrastructure – Lifting Potential Growth

- **Public Sector Investment:** Significant role in funding large-scale infrastructure projects.
- **National Highway Construction:** Pace increased to around 34 km per day by FY24.
- **Railway Capital Expenditure:** Increased by 77% in the past five years.
- **Airport Infrastructure:** New terminal buildings operationalised at 21 airports, increasing passenger handling capacity by 62 million per annum.
- **Clean Energy Investment:** ₹8.5 lakh crore (USD 102.4 billion) between 2014 and 2023.

Chapter 13: Climate Change and India

- **Global Climate Strategies:** Flawed and not universally applicable, overconsumption not addressed.
- **India's Ethos:** Emphasizes a harmonious relationship with nature, contrasting with overconsumption cultures.
- **Sustainable Housing:** Shift towards 'traditional multi-generational households'.
- **Mission LiFE:** Focuses on human-nature harmony, promoting mindful consumption to address global climate change.

The Economic Survey 2023-24 provides a detailed analysis of India's economic landscape, highlighting its resilience and strategic initiatives aimed at sustainable and inclusive growth.





With focused efforts on macroeconomic stability, financial inclusion, climate action, and social welfare, India is well-positioned to navigate future challenges and capitalize on growth opportunities.

Budget 2024-25

The Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Union Budget 2024-25 in Parliament. The highlights of the budget are as follows:

Part-A

Budget Estimates 2024-25:

- Total receipts other than borrowings: Rs. 32.07 lakh crore.
- Total expenditure: Rs. 48.21 lakh crore.
- Net tax receipt: Rs. 25.83 lakh crore.
- Fiscal deficit: 4.9 per cent of GDP.
- The government aims to reach a deficit below 4.5 per cent next year.
- Inflation continues to be low, stable and moving towards the 4% target; Core inflation (non-food, non-fuel) at 3.1%.
- The budget focuses on **EMPLOYMENT, SKILLING, MSMEs, and the MIDDLE CLASS.**

Package of PM’s five schemes for Employment and Skilling

- Prime Minister’s Package of 5 Schemes and Initiatives for employment, skilling and other opportunities for 4.1 crore youth over a 5-year period.
 1. **Scheme A - First Timers:** One-month salary of up to Rs. 15,000 to be provided in 3 installments to first-time employees, as registered in the EPFO.
 2. **Scheme B - Job Creation in manufacturing:** Incentive to be provided at specified scale directly, both employee and employer, with respect to their EPFO contribution in the first 4 years of employment.
 3. **Scheme C - Support to employers:** Government to reimburse up to Rs. 3,000 per month for 2 years towards EPFO contribution of employers, for each additional employee.
 4. **New centrally sponsored scheme for Skilling-** 20 lakh youth to be skilled over a 5-year period and 1,000 Industrial Training Institutes to be upgraded in hub and spoke arrangements.
 5. **New Scheme for Internship in 500 Top Companies** to 1 crore youth in 5 years

Nine Budget Priorities in Pursuit of ‘Viksit Bharat’:

1. Productivity and Resilience in Agriculture
2. Employment & Skilling
3. Inclusive Human Resource Development and Social Justice
4. Manufacturing & Services
5. Urban Development
6. Energy Security
7. Infrastructure
8. Innovation, Research & Development and
9. Next Generation Reforms

Priority 1: Productivity and resilience in Agriculture

- Allocation of Rs. 1.52 lakh crore for agriculture and allied sectors.
- New 109 high-yielding and climate-resilient varieties of 32 field and horticulture crops to be released for cultivation by farmers.
- 1 crore farmers across the country to be initiated into natural farming, with certification and branding in next 2 years.
- 10,000 need-based bio-input resource centres to be established for natural farming.
- Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for Agriculture to be implemented for coverage of farmers and their lands in 3 years.

Priority 2: Employment & Skilling

- As part of the Prime Minister’s package, 3 schemes for ‘Employment Linked Incentive’ to be implemented - Scheme A - First Timers; Scheme B - Job Creation in manufacturing; Scheme C - Support to employers.
- To facilitate higher participation of women in the workforce,
 1. working women hostels and crèches to be established with industrial collaboration
 2. women-specific skilling programmes to be organized
 3. market access for women SHG enterprises to be promoted

Skill Development

- New centrally sponsored scheme for Skilling under Prime Minister’s Package for 20 lakh youth over a 5-year period.
- Model Skill Loan Scheme to be revised to facilitate loans up to Rs. 7.5 lakh.
- Financial support for loans upto Rs. 10 lakh for higher education in domestic institutions to be provided to youth who have not been eligible for any benefit under government schemes and policies.

Priority 3: Inclusive Human Resource Development and Social Justice

Purvodaya

- Industrial node at Gaya to be developed along the Amritsar-Kolkata Industrial Corridor.
- Power projects, including new 2400 MW power plant at Pirpainti, to be taken up at a cost of Rs. 21,400 crore.

Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act

- Special financial support through multilateral development agencies of Rs. 15,000 crore in the current financial year.
- Industrial node at Koppaathy along Vishakhapatnam-Chennai Industrial Corridor and at Orvakal along Hyderabad-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor.



**Women-led development**

- Total allocation of more than Rs. 3 lakh crore for schemes benefitting women and girls.

Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan

- Socio-economic development of tribal families in tribal-majority villages and aspirational districts, covering 63,000 villages benefitting 5 crore tribal people.

Bank branches in North-Eastern Region

- 100 branches of India Post Payment Bank to be set up in the North East region.

Priority 4: Manufacturing & Services**Credit Guarantee Scheme for MSMEs in the Manufacturing Sector**

- A credit guarantee scheme without collateral or third-party guarantee in term loans to MSMEs for purchase of machinery and equipment.

Credit Support to MSMEs during Stress Period

- New mechanism to facilitate continuation of bank credit to MSMEs during their stress period.

Mudra Loans

- The limit of Mudra loans under 'Tarun' category to be enhanced to Rs. 20 lakh from Rs. 10 lakh for those who have successfully repaid previous loans.

Enhanced scope for mandatory onboarding in TReDS

- Turnover threshold of buyers for mandatory onboarding on the TReDS platform to be reduced from Rs. 500 crore to Rs. 250 crore..

MSME Units for Food Irradiation, Quality & Safety Testing

- Financial support to set up 50 multi-product food irradiation units in the MSME sector .

E-Commerce Export Hubs

- E-Commerce Export Hubs to be set up under public-private-partnership (PPP) mode for MSMEs and traditional artisans to sell their products in international markets.

Critical Mineral Mission

- Critical Mineral Mission to be set up for domestic production, recycling of critical minerals, and overseas acquisition of critical mineral assets.

Offshore mining of minerals

- Auction of the first tranche of offshore blocks for mining, building on the exploration already carried out.

Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) Applications

- Development of DPI applications in the areas of credit, e-commerce, education, health, law and justice, logistics, MSME, services delivery, and urban governance.

Priority 5: Urban Development**Transit Oriented Development**

- Formulation of Transit Oriented Development plans and strategies to implement and finance 14 large cities above 30 lakh population.

Urban Housing

- Investment of Rs. 10 lakh crore, including the central assistance of Rs. 2.2 lakh crore in next 5 years, under PM Awas Yojana Urban 2.0 proposed to address the, housing needs of 1 crore urban poor and middle-class families.

Street Markets

- New scheme to support the development of 100 weekly 'haats' or street food hubs every year for the next 5 years in select cities.

Priority 6: Energy Security**Energy Transition**

- Policy document on 'Energy Transition Pathways' to balance the imperatives of employment, growth and environmental sustainability to be brought out.

Pumped Storage Policy

- Policy for promoting pumped storage projects for electricity storage to be brought out.

Research and development of small and modular nuclear reactors

- Government to partner with private sector for R&D of Bharat Small Modular Reactor and newer technologies for nuclear energy, and to set up Bharat Small Reactors.

Advanced Ultra Super Critical Thermal Power Plants

- Joint venture proposed between NTPC and BHEL to set up a full scale 800 MW commercial plant using Advanced Ultra Super Critical (AUSC) technology.

Roadmap for 'hard to abate' industries

- Appropriate regulations for transition of 'hard to abate' industries from the current 'Perform, Achieve and Trade' mode to 'Indian Carbon Market' mode to be put in place.

Priority 7: Infrastructure**Infrastructure investment by Central Government**

- Rs. 11,11,111 crore (3.4 % of GDP) to be provided for capital expenditure.

Infrastructure investment by state governments

- Provision of Rs. 1.5 lakh crore for long-term interest free loans to support states in infrastructure investment.

Pradhan Mantri Gram SadakYojana (PMGSY)

- Launch of phase IV of PMGSY to provide all-weather connectivity to 25,000 rural habitations.

Irrigation and Flood Mitigation

- Financial support of Rs. 11,500 crore to projects such as the Kosi-Mechi intra-state link and other schemes in Bihar.





- Government to provide assistance to Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Sikkim for floods, landslides and other related projects.

Tourism

- Comprehensive development of Vishnupad Temple Corridor, Mahabodhi Temple Corridor and Rajgir.
- Assistance for development of temples, monuments, craftsmanship, wildlife sanctuaries, natural landscapes and pristine beaches of Odisha.

Priority 8: Innovation, Research & Development

- Anusandhan National Research Fund for basic research and prototype development to be operationalised.
- Financing pool of Rs. 1 lakh crore for spurring private sector-driven research and innovation at commercial scale.

Space Economy

- Venture capital fund of Rs. 1,000 crore to be set up for expanding the space economy by 5 times in the next 10 years.

Priority 9: Next Generation Reforms**Rural Land-Related Actions**

- Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN) or Bhu-Aadhaar for all lands
- Digitization of cadastral maps
- Survey of map sub-divisions as per current ownership
- Establishment of land registry
- Linking to the farmers registry

Urban Land-Related Actions

- Land records in urban areas to be digitized with GIS mapping.

Services to Labour

- Integration of e-shram portal with other portals to facilitate such one-stop solution.
- Open architecture databases for the rapidly changing labour market, skill requirements and available job roles.
- Mechanism to connect job-aspirants with potential employers and skill providers.

NPS Vatsalya

- NPS-Vatsalya as a plan for contribution by parents and guardians for minors.

PART B**Indirect Taxes****GST**

- Buoyed by GST's success, tax structure to be simplified and rationalised to expand GST to remaining sectors.

Sector specific customs duty proposals**Medicines and Medical Equipment**

- Three cancer drugs namely Trastuzumab, Deruxtecan, Osimertinib and Durvalumab fully exempted from custom duty.
- Changes in Basic Customs Duty (BCD) on x-ray tubes & flat panel detectors for use in medical x-ray machines under the Phased Manufacturing Programme.

Mobile Phone and Related Parts

- BCD on mobile phone, mobile Printed Circuit Board Assembly (PCBA) and mobile charger reduced to 15 per cent.

Precious Metals

- Customs duties on gold and silver reduced to 6 per cent and that on platinum to 6.4 per cent.

Other Metals

- BCD removed on ferro nickel and blister copper.
- BCD removed on ferrous scrap and nickel cathode.
- Concessional BCD of 2.5 per cent on copper scrap.

Electronics

- BCD removed, subject to conditions, on oxygen free copper for manufacture of resistors.

Chemicals and Petrochemicals

- BCD on ammonium nitrate increased from 7.5 to 10 per cent.

Plastics

- BCD on PVC flex banners increased from 10 to 25 per cent.

Telecommunication Equipment

- BCD increased from 10 to 15 per cent on PCBA of specified telecom equipment.

Trade facilitation

- For promotion of domestic aviation and boat & ship MRO, time period for export of goods imported for repairs extended from six months to one year.
- Time-limit for re-import of goods for repairs under warranty extended from three to five years.

Critical Minerals

- 25 critical minerals fully exempted from customs duties.
- BCD on two critical minerals reduced.

Solar Energy

- Capital goods for use in manufacture of solar cells and panels exempted from customs duty.

Marine products

- BCD on certain broodstock, polychaete worms, shrimp and fish feed reduced to 5 per cent.
- Various inputs for manufacture of shrimp and fish feed exempted from customs duty.

Leather and Textile

- BCD reduced on real down filling material from duck or goose.





- BCD reduced, subject to conditions, on methylene diphenyl diisocyanate (MDI) for manufacture of spandex yarn from 7.5 to 5 per cent.

Direct Taxes

- Efforts to simplify taxes, improve tax payer services, provide tax certainty and reduce litigation to be continued.
- Enhance revenues for funding development and welfare schemes of government.
- 58 per cent of corporate tax from simplified tax regime in FY23, more than two-thirds taxpayers availed simplified tax regime for personal income tax in FY 24.

Simplification for Charities and of TDS

- Two tax exemption regimes for charities to be merged into one.
- 5 per cent TDS rate on many payments merged into 2 per cent TDS rate.
- 20 per cent TDS rate on repurchase of units by mutual funds or UTI withdrawn.
- TDS rate on e-commerce operators reduced from one to 0.1 per cent.
- Delay for payment of TDS up to due date of filing statement decriminalized.

Simplification of Reassessment

- Assessment can be reopened beyond three years upto five years from the end of Assessment Year only if the escaped income is ₹ 50 lakh or more.
- In search cases, time limit reduced from ten to six years before the year of search.

Simplification and Rationalisation of Capital Gains

- Short term gains on certain financial assets to attract a tax rate of 20 per cent.
- Long term gains on all financial and non-financial assets to attract a tax rate of 12.5 per cent.
- Exemption limit of capital gains on certain financial assets increased to ₹ 1.25 lakh per year.

Tax Payer Services

- All remaining services of Customs and Income Tax including rectification and order giving effect to appellate orders to be digitalized over the next two years.

Litigation and Appeals

- ‘Vivad Se Vishwas Scheme, 2024’ for resolution of income tax disputes pending in appeal.
- Monetary limits for filing direct taxes, excise and service tax related appeals in Tax Tribunals, High Courts and Supreme Court increased to ₹60 lakh, ₹2 crore and ₹5 crore respectively.
- Safe harbour rules expanded to reduce litigation and provide certainty in international taxation.

Employment and Investment

- Angel tax for all classes of investors abolished to bolster start-up eco-system,.
- Simpler tax regime for foreign shipping companies operating domestic cruises to promote cruise tourism in India.
- Safe harbour rates for foreign mining companies selling raw diamonds in the country.
- Corporate tax rate on foreign companies reduced from 40 to 35 per cent.

Deepening tax base

- Security Transactions Tax on futures and options of securities increased to 0.02 per cent and 0.1 per cent respectively.
- Income received on buy back of shares in the hands of recipient to be taxed.

Social Security Benefits.

- Deduction of expenditure by employers towards NPS to be increased from 10 to 14 per cent of the employee’s salary.
- Non-reporting of small movable foreign assets up to ₹20 lakh de-penalised.

Other major proposal in Finance Bill

- Equalization levy of 2 per cent withdrawn.

Changes in Personal Income Tax under new tax regime

- Standard deduction for salaried employees increased from ₹50,000 to ₹75,000.
- Deduction on family pension for pensioners enhanced from ₹15,000/- to ₹25,000/-

Revised tax rate structure:

0-3 lakh rupees	Nil
3-7 lakh rupees	5 per cent
7-10 lakh rupees	10 per cent
10-12 lakh rupees	15 per cent
12-15 lakh rupees	20 per cent
Above 15 lakh rupees	30 per cent

- Salaried employee in the new tax regime stands to save up to ₹ 17,500/- in income tax.

Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023

Three new criminal laws –**Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita** and the **Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam** -came into effect across the country on **July 1, 2024**. These laws will replace the **colonial-era Indian Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure** and the **Indian Evidence Act**, respectively.

What is Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita?

- The **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023** (BNSS) was introduced on **August 11, 2023** to replace the **CrPC**. It amends provisions on bail, expands the scope of property seizure, and alters powers of police and Magistrates. The Bill has been examined by the Standing Committee on Home Affairs.





- **Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita** has **531** sections (in place of 484 sections of CrPC). A total of **177 provisions** have been changed in the Sanhita and nine new sections as well as **39** new sub-sections have been added to it. The act has added 44 new provisions and clarifications.

Highlights of the Bill

- The **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNSS)** seeks to replace the **Criminal Procedure Code, 1973 (CrPC)**. The **CrPC** provides for the procedure for arrest, prosecution, and bail.
- **BNSS** mandates forensic investigation for offences punishable with **seven years** of imprisonment or more. Forensic experts will visit crime scenes to collect forensic evidence and record the process.
- All trials, inquiries, and proceedings may be held in electronic mode. Production of electronic communication devices, likely to contain digital evidence, will be allowed for investigation, inquiry, or trial.
- If a proclaimed offender has absconded to evade trial and there is no immediate prospect of arresting him, the trial can be conducted and judgement pronounced in his absence.
- Along with specimen signatures or handwriting, finger impressions and voice samples may be collected for investigation or proceedings. Samples may be taken from a person who has not been arrested.

Key Issues and Analysis

- The **BNSS** allows up to **15 days of police custody**, which can be authorised in parts during the initial 40 or 60 days of the **60 or 90 days period** of judicial custody. This may lead to denial of bail for the entire period if the police has not exhausted the 15 days custody.
- The powers to attach **property** from proceeds of crime does not have safeguards provided in the **Prevention of Money Laundering Act**.
- The **CrPC** provides for bail for an accused who has been detained for half the maximum imprisonment for the offence. The **BNSS** denies this facility for anyone facing multiple charges. As many cases involve charges under multiple sections, this may limit such bail.
- The use of handcuffs is permitted in a range of cases including economic offences, contradicting Supreme Court directions.
- The **BNSS** allows evidence collected by retired or transferred investigating officers to be presented by their successors. This violates normal rules of evidence when the author of the document can be cross examined.
- Recommendations of **high level committees** on changes to the **CrPC** such as reforms in sentencing guidelines and codifying rights of the accused have not been incorporated in the **BNSS**.

Difference between New Law (Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita 2023) and Old Law

Aspect	Old Law (Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973)	New Law (Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023)
Introduction Date	1973	2023
Colonial Influence	Retained elements from British colonial rule	Drafted to reflect post-independence and modern Indian values
Language and Terminology	Archaic legal language	Simplified and modernized language
Structure	Detailed procedural code with 484 sections	Revised structure, updated sections
Arrests	Procedures for arrests detailed in Sections 41-60	New provisions for digital warrants, use of technology in arrests
Investigation	Traditional methods of investigation	Emphasis on forensic evidence, cyber investigations
Bail and Bonds	Detailed provisions in Sections 436-450	Streamlined process, emphasis on bail reform
Trial Procedures	Detailed trial procedures	Simplified and expedited trial processes
Witness Protection	Limited provisions	Comprehensive witness protection programs
Victim Rights	Basic recognition of victim rights	Enhanced victim compensation and support mechanisms
Speedy Trial	Emphasis on speedy trial, often delayed	Stronger provisions for ensuring speedy trial
Digital Evidence	Limited recognition	Comprehensive recognition and procedures for digital evidence
Police Reforms	Basic guidelines	Detailed guidelines on police reforms, accountability mechanisms
Appeals and Revisions	Detailed in Sections 372-394	Updated to include digital submission of appeals, faster processes
Juvenile Procedures	Governed by Juvenile Justice Act, 2015	Integrated approach with special provisions for juveniles





Aspect	Old Law (Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973)	New Law (Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023)
Technology Use	Limited use	Extensive use of technology in legal processes
Alternative Dispute Resolution	Basic provisions	Expanded focus on ADR mechanisms
Preventive Measures	Sections on preventive actions like Section 107, 144	Strengthened preventive measures, modern context considerations
Community Policing	Limited provisions	Emphasis on community policing and involvement
Special Courts	Provisions for special courts	Expansion and more specific guidelines for special courts
Inter-State Coordination	Basic guidelines	Enhanced inter-state coordination mechanisms
Legal Aid	Basic provisions for free legal aid	Strengthened and expanded legal aid provisions
Electronic Monitoring	Not covered	Provisions for electronic monitoring of offenders
Public Participation	Limited mechanisms	Increased focus on public participation in criminal justice

Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023, Check Complete Details

The **three New Criminal Laws**– **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023**, **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023** and **Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam, 2023**, will come into **force July 1, 2024**. The government of India has held regular meetings with **States and Union Territories** and they are fully geared up in terms of **technology, capacity building** and **awareness generation** to implement the **new Criminal Laws**.

What is Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023?

- The **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)** is the official criminal code in the **Republic of India**. It came into **effect on 1 July, 2024** after being passed by the parliament in December 2023 to replace the **Indian Penal Code (IPC)**, which dated back to the period of **British India**.
- **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita** has 358 sections (instead of 511 sections of IPC). A total of 20 new crimes have been added to the Sanhita, and the imprisonment sentence has been increased for 33 crimes. The amount of fine has been increased in 83 crimes and mandatory minimum punishment has been introduced in 23 crimes.

Offences included in Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023

In the **Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita, 20 new offences** have been added to and **19 provisions** in the repealed IPC have been dropped. The punishment of imprisonment has been increased for **33 offences**, and fines have been increased for 83 offences. A mandatory minimum punishment has been introduced for **23 offences**. A sentence of community service has been introduced for six offences.

- **Offences against the body:** The BNS retains the provisions of the IPC on murder, abetment of suicide, assault and causing grievous hurt. It adds new offences such as organised crime, terrorism, and murder or grievous hurt by a group on certain grounds.
- **Sexual offences against women:** The BNS retains the provisions of the IPC on rape, voyeurism, stalking and

insulting the modesty of a woman. It increases the threshold for the victim to be classified as a major, in the case of gang rape, from 16 to 18 years of age.

- **Offences against property:** The BNS retains the provisions of the IPC on theft, robbery, burglary and cheating. It adds new offences such as cybercrime and financial fraud.
- **Offences against the state:** The BNS removes sedition as an offence. Instead, there is a new offence for acts endangering India’s sovereignty, unity and integrity.
- **Offences against the public:** The BNS adds new offences such as environmental pollution and human trafficking.

Highlight of The New Criminal Law

1. **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023** will replace the IPC. It will have **358 sections** instead of the earlier 511 sections, 175 sections have been changed, 8 new sections have been added and 22 sections have been repealed.
2. **State-of-the-art technologies** have been incorporated into this law. The definition of documents has been expanded to include **electronic or digital records, e-mails, server logs, computers, smartphones, laptops, SMS, websites, locational evidence, mail and messages** available on devices, which can be used in courts, which will give freedom from the pile of papers.
3. A provision has been made in this law to digitise the entire process from **FIR to case diary**, case diary to charge sheet and from charge sheet to judgment. At present, only the appearance of the accused in court can be done through video conferencing.
4. The new laws make **videography compulsory** at the time of search and seizure, which will be part of the case and this will save the innocent citizens from being implicated. No charge sheet will be valid without such recording by the police.





5. The Government will set up the **National Forensic Science University** which after three years will produce **33,000 forensic science experts and scientists** every year. The government aims to take the conviction ratio **above 90%** with these laws. For this, an important provision has been provided which will make the visit of the forensic team to the crime scene compulsory for offences **punishable for 7 years or more**.
6. The new laws also allow **'Zero FIR' (e-FIR)** to ensure the convenience of the citizens. Wherever the crime may have happened, the citizens will be able **to lodge complaints** even outside of their police station area. Within **15 days** of the registration of the crime, it will have to be forwarded to the concerned police station.
7. The **statement of the victim** has been made compulsory in the case of **sexual violence and video recording** of the statement has also been made compulsory in the case of sexual harassment. It will be compulsory for the police to give the status of the complaint to the complainant in **90 days** and thereafter **every 15 days**. No government will be able to withdraw a case of imprisonment of 7 years or more without hearing the victim, which will protect the rights of the citizens.
8. For the first time, the government is bringing community service as a punishment. The scope of summary trials in small cases has also been increased. Now offenses punishable up to **3 years** will be included in summary trial. A time limit of 90 days has been fixed for filing the charge sheet and depending on the situation, the court will be able to give permission for a further 90 days.
9. The government will have to decide on the **permission for trial against a civil servant or police officer in 120 days**, otherwise, it will be treated as deemed.
10. For the first time, a provision has been made to **criminalise sexual intercourse** on the basis of false promises of marriage, employment and promotion and on the basis of false identity. In all cases of gang rape, a provision of **20 years of punishment or life imprisonment** has been made, which is not being implemented today. In the case of **girls below 18 years of age**, a provision of the death penalty has also been kept. For mob lynching, all three provisions of **7 years**, life imprisonment and the death penalty have been kept. There was **no provision for mobile phones or chain snatching from women**, but now provision has been kept for the same.

Difference between The New Criminal Law and Old Law

Aspect	Old Law (Indian Penal Code, 1860)	New Law (Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023)
Introduction Date	1860	2023
Colonial Influence	Drafted during British colonial rule	Drafted in post-independence India, reflecting modern values
Language and Terminology	Archaic English	Simplified and modernized language
Structure	511 sections	Revised structure, includes new sections
Offenses against the State	Sections on sedition, less emphasis on national security	Stronger focus on national security, cybercrimes, terrorism
Sexual Offenses	Outdated definitions, limited recognition of modern crimes	Expanded definitions, includes cyberstalking, digital harassment
Gender Neutrality	Certain sections gender-specific	More gender-neutral provisions
Cybercrimes	Minimal references	Comprehensive sections on cybercrimes
Punishments	Traditional forms of punishment	Updated punishments, includes alternative sentencing
Restorative Justice	Limited provisions	Emphasis on restorative justice and victim compensation
Corruption and Bribery	General provisions	Detailed provisions to address modern forms of corruption
Economic Offenses	Basic definitions	Expanded to include financial frauds, money laundering
Defamation	Criminal defamation included	Modified to align with freedom of speech considerations
Adultery	Criminal offense	Decriminalized





Aspect	Old Law (Indian Penal Code, 1860)	New Law (Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023)
Homosexuality	Criminalized under Section 377	Decriminalized following the Supreme Court judgment
Blasphemy	Strict provisions	More balanced approach respecting freedom of religion
Marital Rape	Not recognized	Recognized and criminalized
Implementation Mechanism	Traditional methods	Modernized with emphasis on technology and forensic science
Juvenile Justice	Separate act (Juvenile Justice Act, 2015)	Integrated approach with special provisions
Reform Focus	Punitive	Emphasis on rehabilitation and reform

Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA), 2023, Check Details

The new criminal laws, the **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)**, the **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS)** and the **Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam(BSA)** are taking effect from **July 1, 2024**. These laws repeal and replace the **Indian Penal Code**, the **Code of Criminal Procedure** and the **Indian Evidence Act** respectively.

New law passed

The new law was passed by **Parliament** last **December**, with Home Minister Amit Shah, who had piloted the change, saying that the legislations would give priority to providing justice, unlike the British-era laws that gave primacy to penal action. "These laws are made by Indians, for Indians and by an Indian Parliament and marks the end of colonial criminal justice laws," he said.

All about Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam

The **Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA)** replaces the **Indian Evidence Act** and introduces changes in the way evidence is

processed. The BSA allows for **"electronic and digital records"**. This covers a wide range of electronic records, which includes emails, server logs, files stored on computers, laptops, or smartphones, website content, location data, and text messages, among others. The BSA also allows for **oral evidence** to be taken electronically. Additionally, to provide more protection to the victim and enforce transparency in investigation related to an **offence of rape**, the statement of the victim shall be recorded through audio-video means.

Expanded secondary evidence

The BSA has also expanded **"secondary evidence"** to include oral and written admissions. It states that secondary evidence will include "evidence of a person who has examined a document, the original of which consists of numerous accounts or other documents which cannot conveniently be examined in Court, and who is skilled in the examination of such documents".

Difference between Old Law and New Law

Aspect	Old Law (Indian Evidence Act, 1872)	New Law (Bhartiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023)
Introduction Date	1872	2023
Colonial Influence	Drafted during British colonial rule	Drafted to reflect post-independence and modern Indian values
Language and Terminology	Archaic English	Simplified and modernized language
Structure	Structured with 167 sections	Revised structure, includes new sections
Admissibility of Evidence	Detailed rules on admissibility	Updated rules considering technological advancements
Electronic Evidence	Basic recognition in amendments	Comprehensive provisions for electronic and digital evidence
Hearsay Rule	Strict adherence to hearsay rule	Modified to accommodate modern communication methods
Witness Testimony	Traditional procedures	Enhanced procedures including video conferencing for testimony
Relevance of Evidence	Defined under Sections 5-55	Expanded to include modern types of evidence
Documentary Evidence	Sections 61-90	Updated to include electronic documents





Aspect	Old Law (Indian Evidence Act, 1872)	New Law (Bhartiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023)
Presumption	Various presumptions detailed	New presumptions reflecting modern societal norms
Confessions	Sections 24-30 cover confessions	Revised provisions on confessions, especially digital confessions
Privileged Communication	Detailed in Sections 122-132	Expanded to cover modern professional communications
Expert Testimony	Sections 45-51	Broadened scope to include digital forensic experts
Burden of Proof	Sections 101-114 cover burden of proof	Updated rules considering new types of evidence
Character Evidence	Sections 52-55	Revised to reflect current societal values
Presumption of Innocence	Strongly upheld	Continued emphasis with additional safeguards
Alibi	Specific provisions	More detailed provisions on proving alibi
Sexual Offenses Evidence	Limited recognition of victims' rights	Enhanced protections and considerations for victims
Corroboration	Requirement for corroboration in certain cases	Updated requirements, especially in cases of digital evidence
Chain of Custody	Basic principles	Detailed procedures for maintaining chain of custody for digital evidence
In-camera Proceedings	Limited provisions	Expanded scope for in-camera proceedings, especially in sensitive cases
Forensic Evidence	Basic inclusion	Extensive provisions for forensic evidence, including DNA
Hostile Witnesses	Provisions for dealing with hostile witnesses	Updated rules considering the impact of digital threats
Adverse Inference	Sections on adverse inference from silence or non-production of evidence	Updated to reflect modern legal standards
Reforms Focus	Admissibility and relevance primarily	Emphasis on efficiency, technology, and victim rights

RBI's 29th Financial Stability Report (FSR) July 2024: An Overview

The **Financial Stability Report (FSR)** is a comprehensive, half-yearly publication that involves contributions from all financial sector regulators in India. It reflects the collective assessment of the Sub-Committee of the Financial Stability and Development Council on current and emerging risks to the stability of the Indian financial system. The July 2024 edition of the FSR highlights various aspects of global and domestic macro financial risks, the soundness and resilience of financial institutions, regulatory initiatives, and an assessment of systemic risk.

Global Macrofinancial Risks

The global economy and financial system demonstrate resilience amidst significant risks and uncertainties. Despite the improvement in near-term prospects, several factors pose downside risks:

- **Disinflation Pitstops:** Challenges in achieving the last mile of disinflation.

- **High Public Debt:** The rising levels of public debt across nations.
- **Stretched Asset Valuations:** Overvaluation of assets in financial markets.
- **Economic Fragmentation:** Growing economic divisions among countries.
- **Geopolitical Tensions:** Persistent geopolitical conflicts and their economic impacts.
- **Climate Disasters:** Increasing frequency and severity of climate-related disasters.
- **Cyber Threats:** Rising threats from cyber-attacks and security breaches.

Emerging market economies (EMEs) remain particularly vulnerable to these external shocks and spillovers.

Domestic Macrofinancial Risks

India's strong macroeconomic fundamentals and a stable financial system have underpinned the sustained expansion of its economy. Key factors supporting this growth include:





- **Moderating Inflation:** A trend of decreasing inflation rates.
- **Strong External Position:** Robust foreign exchange reserves and favorable trade balances.
- **Fiscal Consolidation:** Ongoing efforts to reduce fiscal deficits and manage public debt.

These factors have bolstered business and consumer confidence, with domestic financial conditions further strengthened by the healthy balance sheets of financial institutions.

Financial Institutions: Soundness and Resilience

Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs)

SCBs have shown remarkable improvement in profitability and asset quality:

- **Profitability:** Return on assets (RoA) and return on equity (RoE) are at 1.3% and 13.8%, respectively.
- **Non-Performing Assets (NPAs):** Gross NPAs and net NPAs are at multi-year lows of 2.8% and 0.6%, respectively.
- **Capital Buffers:** The capital to risk-weighted assets ratio (CRAR) and the common equity tier 1 (CET1) ratio stand at 16.8% and 13.9%, respectively, well above the regulatory minimum.

Macro stress tests for credit risk indicate that SCBs have adequate capital buffers to withstand adverse stress scenarios.

Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) and Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)

- **UCBs:** The CRAR for UCBs increased to 17.5% in March 2024.
- **NBFCs:** The CRAR for NBFCs slightly declined to 26.6%, still significantly above the regulatory minimum.

The insurance sector's consolidated solvency ratio remains above the minimum threshold limit of 150%, and stress tests on mutual funds and clearing corporations indicate robust resilience.

Regulatory Initiatives and Other Developments in the Financial Sector

Global Initiatives

Regulatory efforts globally continue to focus on:

- Promoting financial stability.
- Consistent implementation and refinement of global standards.
- Safeguarding the banking system from interconnectedness with non-banking financial institutions.
- Addressing risks from the digitalization of finance.
- Improving climate-related risk assessments.
- Strengthening resilience to cyber risks.

Domestic Initiatives

In India, regulatory initiatives aim to enhance the safety and resilience of the financial system by:

- Implementing proportionate regulations.
- Leveraging technology to improve customer service, governance, and risk management.
- Limiting procyclical activities while fostering efficiency.

Assessment of Systemic Risk

The most recent systemic risk survey (SRS) conducted in May 2024 categorized all major risk groups to domestic financial stability as 'medium.' Key findings include:

- **Optimism in Domestic Financial System:** Respondents showed optimism regarding the soundness of India's financial system.
- **Global Spillover Risks:** Risks from global spillovers have diminished, with increased confidence in the Indian financial system.
- **Near-term Risks:** The main near-term risks identified were geopolitical risks, tightening of global financial conditions, and capital outflows.

Highlights of the Reports

- The global economy is facing heightened risks from prolonged geopolitical tensions, elevated public debt, and the slow progress in the last mile of disinflation. Despite these challenges, the global financial system has remained resilient, and financial conditions stable.
- The Indian economy and the financial system remain robust and resilient, anchored by macroeconomic and financial stability. With improved balance sheets, banks and financial institutions are supporting economic activity through sustained credit expansion.
- The capital to risk-weighted assets ratio (CRAR) and the common equity tier 1 (CET1) ratio of scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) stood at 16.8 per cent and 13.9 per cent, respectively, at end-March 2024.
- SCBs' gross non-performing assets (GNPA) ratio fell to a multi-year low of 2.8 per cent and the net non-performing assets (NNPA) ratio to 0.6 per cent at end-March 2024.
- Macro stress tests for credit risk reveal that SCBs would be able to comply with minimum capital requirements, with the system-level CRAR in March 2025 projected at 16.1 per cent, 14.4 per cent and 13.0 per cent, respectively, under baseline, medium and severe stress scenarios. These scenarios are stringent conservative assessments under hypothetical shocks and the results should not be interpreted as forecasts.
- Non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) remain healthy, with CRAR at 26.6 per cent, GNPA ratio at 4.0 per cent and return on assets (RoA) at 3.3 per cent, respectively, at end-March 2024.

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Indian Government Reshuffles Cabinet Committees in July 2024

On July 3, 2024, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi's National Democratic Alliance (NDA)** government reorganized eight important groups within the Union Cabinet. This happened after Modi was sworn in as Prime Minister for the third time in a row, which is a record.

What are Cabinet Committees?

Cabinet Committees are small groups of ministers who work on specific areas of government. They help make decisions and manage different parts of the government's work.

Key Points About the New Cabinet Committees

- There are 72 members in the Union Council of Ministers, including Prime Minister Modi.
- 31 of these members are Cabinet-rank ministers.
- These Cabinet ministers are part of the newly formed committees.
- Prime Minister Modi leads most of the committees, but not all.

The Eight Cabinet Committees

1. Appointments Committee of the Cabinet

- **Members:** Prime Minister Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah
- **Purpose:** Makes decisions about important government appointments

2. Cabinet Committee on Security

- **Key members:** Prime Minister Modi, Defence Minister, Home Minister, Finance Minister, and External Affairs Minister
- **Purpose:** Deals with matters related to national security

3. Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs

- **Led by:** Prime Minister Modi
- **Includes:** Ministers of Defence, Home Affairs, Finance, Agriculture, and others
- **Purpose:** Handles important economic matters

4. Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs

- **Headed by:** Prime Minister Modi
- **Members:** Several key ministers including Defence, Home Affairs, and Finance
- **Purpose:** Manages political issues and strategies

5. Cabinet Committee on Investment and Growth

- **Led by:** Prime Minister Modi
- **Includes:** Ministers of Finance, Road Transport, Railways, and others
- **Purpose:** Focuses on boosting investment and economic growth

6. Cabinet Committee on Skill, Employment and Livelihood

- **Notable absence:** Prime Minister Modi is not a member
- **Key members:** Ministers of Defence, Home Affairs, Education, and Labour
- **Purpose:** Works on improving skills, creating jobs, and enhancing livelihoods

7. Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs

- **Notable absence:** Prime Minister Modi is not a member
- **Led by:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh
- **Purpose:** Manages government business in Parliament

8. Cabinet Committee on Accommodation

- **Headed by:** Home Minister Amit Shah
- **Includes:** Ministers of Finance, Housing, and Urban Affairs
- **Purpose:** Deals with housing and accommodation for government officials

24th Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit: Key Highlights

The **24th Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** took place on July 4, 2024, in Astana, Kazakhstan. This important gathering brought together leaders from various countries to discuss regional cooperation and security issues.

Host and Venue

- **Host:** Kazakhstan President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev
- **Location:** Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan

Notable Attendees

Several world leaders participated in the summit, including:

- Russian President Vladimir Putin
- Chinese President Xi Jinping
- Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif
- UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres

India's Representation

- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi did not attend the summit
- India was represented by External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar

Key Developments

1. Belarus Joins SCO

- Belarus was admitted as the 10th full member of the SCO
- Previously, Belarus held observer status in the organization

2. Focus on Combating Terrorism

- Dr. Jaishankar read Prime Minister Modi's address at the summit
- Modi emphasized that terrorism in any form cannot be justified
- He called for decisive action against cross-border terrorism
- The Prime Minister stressed the need to counter terrorism financing and recruitment





3. SCO Expansion

- The SCO was originally established in 2001 with five members
- India and Pakistan joined in 2017
- Iran became the 9th member in 2023
- Belarus is now the 10th member as of 2024

Looking Ahead: 25th SCO Summit

- The next SCO Council of Heads of State Meeting will be held in China
- China has taken over the rotating presidency of the SCO from Kazakhstan
- The Chinese city of Qingdao has been named the SCO's tourism and cultural capital for 2024-2025

About the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

Purpose

- The SCO is an intergovernmental organization focused on regional security and cooperation

Concerns

- Some analysts worry that the SCO is becoming an anti-Western alliance led by China and Russia
- This may be one reason why Prime Minister Modi chose not to attend the summit

Structure

- The Council of Heads of States is the SCO's highest decision-making body
- It meets once a year

Key Facts

- Headquarters: Beijing, China
- Permanent Members: 10 countries (including the latest addition, Belarus)
- Observer Members: Afghanistan and Mongolia

Sixteenth Finance Commission Constitutes Five-Member Advisory Council

The **Sixteenth Finance Commission** has constituted an advisory council with **five members to advise** the Commission on any of the **Terms of Reference (ToR)** or related subjects. The Finance Commission, as per the ToR, will also suggest measures to augment the Consolidated Fund of a State to supplement the resources of panchayats and municipalities.

Advisory Council Members

Poonam Gupta, Director General of the National Council of Applied Economic Research, has been appointed as the convenor of the Advisory Council. The other members are:

- D.K. Srivastava, Chief Policy Advisor at EY
- Neelkanth Mishra, Chief Economist at Axis Bank
- Pranjul Bhandari, Chief India Economist at HSBC Securities & Capital Markets
- Rahul Bajoria, MD & Head of EM Asia (ex-China) Economics at Barclays

Role and Functions of the Advisory Council

The advisory council will assist the Commission in

- Preparing papers or research studies
- Monitoring or assessing studies commissioned by the Finance Commission
- Enhancing the Commission's understanding of issues in its ToR
- Broadening the Commission's ambit and understanding by seeking the best national and international practices on fiscal devolution

Terms of Reference (ToR)

The ToR approved by the Cabinet include

- Distribution of net proceeds of taxes between the Union and states under Chapter I, Part XII of the Constitution
- Allocation of respective shares of such proceeds between states
- Principles governing the grants-in-aid of the revenues of states out of the Consolidated Fund of India
- Sums to be paid to states by way of grants-in-aid of their revenues

Constitutional Mandate

The Finance Commission is a constitutionally mandated body established every five years to devise a formula for distributing net tax proceeds between the Centre and the states as well as among states and local bodies. Currently, India shares 41% of federal taxes with states as recommended by the 15th panel.

UNESCO Expands World Network of Biosphere Reserves

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has recently made a significant announcement, approving the designation of **11 new Biosphere Reserves** across 11 countries. This expansion brings the total number of sites in the **World Network of Biosphere Reserves** to an impressive **759**, spanning **136 countries** worldwide. This development marks a crucial step forward in global efforts to protect biodiversity and promote sustainable development.

Newly Designated Biosphere Reserves

The latest additions to the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve list showcase a diverse range of ecosystems and cultural landscapes across the globe. These new sites include:

1. **Kempen-Broek Transboundary Biosphere Reserve** (Belgium, Kingdom of the Netherlands)
2. **Darién Norte Chocoano Biosphere Reserve** (Colombia)
3. **Madre de las Aguas Biosphere Reserve** (Dominican Republic)
4. **Niumi Biosphere Reserve** (Gambia)
5. **Colli Euganei Biosphere Reserve** (Italy)
6. **Julian Alps Transboundary Biosphere Reserve** (Italy, Slovenia)
7. **Khar Us Lake Biosphere Reserve** (Mongolia)
8. **Apayaos Biosphere Reserve** (Philippines)
9. **Changnyeong Biosphere Reserve** (Republic of Korea)
10. **Val d'Aran Biosphere Reserve** (Spain)
11. **Irati Biosphere Reserve** (Spain)





Understanding Biosphere Reserves: Balancing Nature and Human Activity

Definition and Purpose

A **Biosphere Reserve** is an international designation granted by UNESCO for areas that represent significant natural and cultural landscapes. These reserves can encompass large terrestrial, coastal, or marine ecosystems, or a combination thereof. The fundamental goal of Biosphere Reserves is to achieve a delicate balance between **economic and social development**, the **preservation of cultural values**, and the **conservation of nature**.

Criteria for Designation

To be designated as a Biosphere Reserve, a site must meet several key criteria:

1. Contain a **protected core area** of high nature conservation value
2. Be a **biogeographically significant unit** large enough to sustain viable populations across all trophic levels
3. Involve **local communities** and utilize their knowledge in biodiversity preservation
4. Demonstrate potential for preserving **traditional tribal or rural modes of living** that harmonize with the environment

The Three-Zone Approach

Biosphere Reserves are typically divided into three interconnected zones:

1. **Core Zone:** The most protected area, often a national park or sanctuary, kept free from human interference
2. **Buffer Zone:** Surrounds the core zone, allowing activities that protect and support the core zone's integrity
3. **Transition Zone:** The outermost part, where human activities and conservation efforts coexist harmoniously

India's Commitment to Biosphere Reserves

The Biosphere Reserve Project

In 1986, the Government of India launched the **Biosphere Reserve scheme**, aligning with UNESCO's Man and Biosphere (MAB) programme. This initiative provides financial assistance to states for the maintenance and development of biosphere reserves, with varying ratios of central to state funding depending on the region.

India's Biosphere Reserve Network

As of 2024, India boasts **18 notified biosphere reserves**, of which **12 are recognized** by UNESCO's MAB programme. These reserves span diverse ecosystems across the country, from the Nilgiri mountains to the Sundarbans delta, showcasing India's rich biodiversity and commitment to conservation.

Global Impact and Future Prospects

The expansion of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves represents a significant stride in global conservation efforts. With **759 sites** covering a total area of **7,442,000 square kilometers** and impacting the lives of approximately **275 million people**, these reserves play a crucial role in:

- Conserving biodiversity
 - Promoting sustainable development
 - Preserving cultural heritage
 - Facilitating scientific research and environmental education
- As the network continues to grow, it strengthens the global community's capacity to address pressing environmental challenges while fostering sustainable economic growth and cultural preservation.

India to Observe 'Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas' on June 25

The Government of India, under the leadership of Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi**, has made a significant decision to observe **June 25** annually as '**Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas**' (Constitution Murder Day). This observance is intended to commemorate the immense sacrifices and contributions of those who endured the harsh realities of the **1975 Emergency**.

Purpose and Significance

The Union Home Minister emphasized that this decision serves a dual purpose:

1. To honor the spirit of millions who struggled to revive democracy
2. To acknowledge the inexplicable persecution faced by citizens at the hands of an oppressive government during the Emergency period

The observance of Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas is expected to play a crucial role in keeping the eternal flame of **individual freedom** and the defense of **democracy** alive in every Indian citizen. By doing so, it aims to prevent any dictatorial force from repeating the horrors of the past.

The Emergency: A Dark Chapter in Indian Democracy

Historical Context

The Emergency refers to a 21-month period from **June 25, 1975, to March 21, 1977**. During this time, the government led by Prime Minister **Indira Gandhi** invoked special provisions in the Constitution to impose sweeping executive and legislative measures on the country.

Key Events and Consequences

1. **Suspension of Civil Liberties:** The government curtailed fundamental rights, including the freedom of speech and expression guaranteed under **Article 19(1)(a)** of the Indian Constitution.
2. **Press Censorship:** The Emergency saw the implementation of pre-censorship of the press, severely limiting the free flow of information.
3. **Mass Arrests:** Almost all opposition leaders were imprisoned, effectively silencing dissent.
4. **Electoral Disruption:** The government cancelled scheduled elections, undermining the democratic process.
5. **Rule by Decree:** The normal functioning of democracy was replaced by authoritarian rule through executive orders.





Impact on Fundamental Rights

The Emergency period witnessed a severe curtailment of fundamental rights. The freedom of speech and expression, a cornerstone of any democratic society, was particularly targeted. This led to:

- Pre-censorship of the press
- Restrictions on public gatherings and protests
- Limitations on personal freedoms

Significance of June 25, 2024

This year marks a significant milestone as India enters the **fiftieth year** since the imposition of the Emergency. The decision to observe Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas annually from this year onwards carries special weight in light of this anniversary.

Looking Forward: Preserving Democratic Values

Educational Importance

By instituting this annual observance, the government aims to educate younger generations about this critical period in Indian history. It serves as a reminder of the fragility of democratic institutions and the importance of safeguarding constitutional rights.

Strengthening Democratic Foundations

The observance of Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas is expected to:

1. Reinforce the importance of constitutional values
2. Encourage civic engagement and political awareness
3. Foster a deeper appreciation for democratic freedoms

National Reflection

This annual event provides an opportunity for national reflection on the importance of:

- Upholding the rule of law
- Protecting individual freedoms
- Maintaining a vibrant and free press
- Ensuring the independence of democratic institutions

NITI Aayog Releases SDG India Index 2023-24

The SDG India Index 2023-24 reveals significant **national and subnational progress on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. India's composite score improved to 71, reflecting advancements across key sectors like **poverty eradication, economic growth, climate action, and biodiversity conservation**.

State-wise Progress

- **Front Runner States:** 32 States and UTs achieved scores between 65 and 99, with notable improvements seen in Uttar Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, and West Bengal.
- **New Entrants:** Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, and others join the Front Runner category due to substantial score increases.

Goal-wise Achievements

- **Goal 13 (Climate Action):** Score increased from 54 to 67, showcasing enhanced disaster preparedness and renewable energy adoption.
- **Goal 1 (No Poverty):** Improved from 60 to 72, driven by social welfare schemes like PMAY and Ayushman Bharat.

Key Interventions

- Initiatives such as PM Awas Yojana and Ujjwala Yojana contributed significantly to housing, sanitation, and clean energy goals.
- Increased financial inclusion and digital infrastructure development further supported economic growth and societal welfare.

Institutional Framework

NITI Aayog's role in localizing SDGs and fostering competitive federalism has been pivotal, promoting sustainable development as integral to national and subnational policies.

Future Directions

The SDG India Index serves as a crucial tool for evaluating progress and guiding policy decisions towards achieving the 2030 Agenda. The focus remains on inclusive growth and environmental sustainability.

(Sustainable Development Goals) SDG's Goal : Key points

Number of Goals

There are 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) established by the United Nations.

Members Involved

All 193 member states of the United Nations have committed to achieving these goals by 2030.

Purpose

The SDGs aim to address global challenges such as poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace, and justice.

Targets

Each goal has specific targets, totaling 169 targets across all SDGs, to guide national and global efforts towards sustainable development.

Adoption

The SDGs were adopted by all UN member states in 2015 as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Implementation

Countries are encouraged to localize and integrate the SDGs into national policies and programs, with regular monitoring and reporting on progress.

Global Impact

The SDGs provide a framework for global cooperation, encouraging collaboration among governments, businesses, civil society, and citizens to achieve a more sustainable and equitable world by 2030.





Wimbledon 2024 Final, Check Complete Winners List

Carlos Alcaraz defended his Wimbledon title as he defeated **Novak Djokovic** 6-2, 6-2, 7-6 in the **Wimbledon 2024 final**. At 21, Alcaraz is the youngest player in open era to win men's singles at Wimbledon and Roland Garros in the same year. On Women's Category, **Barbora Krejčikova** defeated **Jasmine Paolini** in their Wimbledon 2024 singles showdown, at the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club in London.

Here is the winner's list of Wimbledon 2024

Category	Winner(s)	Runner(s)-up	Score
Men's Singles	Carlos Alcaraz	Novak Djokovic	6-2, 6-2, 7-6 (7-4)
Women's Singles	Barbora Krejčiková	Jasmine Paolini	6-2, 2-6, 6-4
Mixed Doubles	Hsieh Su-Wei & Jan Zielinski	Santiago Gonzalez & Giuliana Olmos	6-4, 6-2
Women's Doubles	Taylor Townsend & Katerina Siniakova	Gabriela Dabrowski & Erin Routliffe	Not provided
Men's Doubles	Patten & Heliovaara	Max Purcell & Jordan Thompson	6-7 (7-9), 7-6 (10-8), 7-6 (11-9)

Centre Reconstitutes NITI Aayog

The Centre has reconstituted the NITI Aayog, the **apex public policy think tank of the Union government**, following changes in the council of ministers. Prime Minister Narendra Modi remains the chairperson, with **economist Suman K Bery** continuing as the vice-chairperson. The reconstituted NITI Aayog includes **four full-time members** and **15 Union Ministers**, including those from BJP allies, serving as either ex-officio members or special invitees.

Leadership and Full-Time Members

- **Chairperson:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- **Vice-Chairperson:** Economist Suman K Bery
- **Full-Time Members**
 - VK Saraswat (Former ISRO DG and Scientist)
 - Ramesh Chand (Agricultural Economist)
 - Dr. VK Paul (Paediatrician)
 - Arvind Virmani (Noted Economist)

Ex-Officio Members from the Cabinet

- **Rajnath Singh** (Defence)
- **Amit Shah** (Home)
- **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** (Agriculture)
- **Nirmala Sitharaman** (Finance)

Special Invitees

- **Nitin Gadkari** (Road Transport and Highways)
- **JP Nadda** (Health)
- **HD Kumaraswamy** (Heavy Industries and Steel, from JD(S))

- **Jitan Ram Manjhi** (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, from HAM)
- **Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh** (Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, from JD(U))
- **Virendra Kumar** (Social Justice and Empowerment)
- **Rammohan Naidu** (Civil Aviation, from TDP)
- **Jual Oram** (Tribal Affairs)
- **Annpurna Devi** (Women and Child Development)
- **Chirag Paswan** (Food Processing Industries, from LJP(RV))
- **Rao Inderjit Singh** (Statistics and Programme Implementation)

Background

NITI Aayog, established in 2015, replaced the 65-year-old Planning Commission. This restructuring aims to incorporate a broader range of expertise and representation, including significant input from NDA allies.

AIFF awards 2024 Announced

The **All India Football Federation (AIFF)** recently held its annual awards ceremony, recognizing outstanding achievements in Indian football for the 2023-24 season. The top honours went to **Lallianzuala Chhangte** and **Indumathi Kathiresan**, who were named the male and female Players of the Year respectively.

Men's Player of the Year: Lallianzuala Chhangte

Lallianzuala Chhangte, the 27-year-old winger from **Mumbai City FC**, secured the AIFF Men's Player of the Year award for the second consecutive time. This achievement makes him only the fifth player to win the award multiple times. Chhangte's exceptional performance included:

- Scoring 11 goals and providing 7 assists in all competitions for Mumbai City FC
- Being the highest-scoring Indian in the Indian Super League (ISL)
- Scoring against Qatar in Doha during the FIFA World Cup Qualifiers in June 2024

Women's Player of the Year: Indumathi Kathiresan

Indumathi Kathiresan, the 30-year-old midfielder, became the first player from Tamil Nadu to win the AIFF Women's Player of the Year award. Her accomplishments include:

- Winning the 2023-24 Indian Women's League (IWL) title with Odisha FC
- Scoring 5 goals in the IWL and winning the Best Midfielder award
- Scoring against Estonia in the Turkish Women's Cup in February 2024

Promising Players of the Year

Men's Category: David Lalhlansanga

David Lalhlansanga, the 22-year-old striker from Mohammedan Sporting, was named the AIFF Promising Men's Player of the Year. His impressive record includes:

- Scoring 34 goals across various competitions (I-League, Calcutta Football League, and Durand Cup)





- Helping Mohammedan Sporting win the I-League and Calcutta Football League titles
- Earning his first national team call-up in May 2024 for the FIFA World Cup Qualifiers

Women’s Category: Neha

18-year-old winger **Neha** received the AIFF Promising Women’s Player of the Year award for her outstanding performances, including:

- Scoring 2 goals in India’s SAFF U19 Women’s Championship triumph
- Contributing 3 goals in Haryana’s run to the Senior Women’s National Football Championship final
- Scoring for HOPS FC in the IWL and being part of the senior India squad for international friendlies

Coaching Excellence

- **Men’s Coach of the Year:** Khalid Jamil (Jamshedpur FC)
- **Women’s Coach of the Year:** Sukla Dutta (India U-19 team and Sreebhumi FC)

Other Notable Awards

- **Referee of the Year:** Ramachandran Venkatesh
- **Assistant Referee of the Year:** Ujjal Halder

Table of AIFF Award Winners for 2023-24

Category	Winner
Men’s Player of the Year	Lallianzuala Chhangte
Women’s Player of the Year	Indumathi Kathiresan
Promising Men’s Player of the Year	David Lalhlansanga
Promising Women’s Player of the Year	Neha
Men’s Coach of the Year	Khalid Jamil
Women’s Coach of the Year	Sukla Dutta
Referee of the Year	Ramachandran Venkatesh
Assistant Referee of the Year	Ujjal Halder

State Association Awards

The AIFF also recognized various state football associations for their contributions to the sport:

- **Most Successful MA (Club Competitions):** Indian Football Association (West Bengal)
- **Most Successful MA (NFC Competitions):** All Manipur Football Association
- **Best MA – Supporting Women’s Football:** Punjab Football Association
- **MA with most player registrations (men’s):** Kerala Football Association
- **MA with most player registrations (women’s):** Western India Football Association (Maharashtra)

Special Recognition

Special awards were given to state governments and associations for their support in hosting various AIFF events:

- Government of Arunachal Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh Football Association
- Government of Odisha and Football Association of Odisha
- Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council

Most Important Current Affairs of June 2024

QS World University Rankings 2025 Announced

The much-awaited **QS World University Rankings 2025** have been announced, featuring an impressive **1,500 universities** across **105 higher education systems**. This year’s ranking stands as the largest ever, underscoring the global commitment to academic excellence and innovation.

Top-Ranked Universities

The rankings are led by prestigious institutions that have consistently maintained their positions at the forefront of higher education. Here are the top 10 universities according to the QS World University Rankings 2025:

Rank	University	Location	Overall Score
1	Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)	Cambridge, United States	100
2	Imperial College London	London, United Kingdom	98.5
3	University of Oxford	Oxford, United Kingdom	96.9
4	Harvard University	Cambridge, United States	96.8
5	University of Cambridge	Cambridge, United Kingdom	96.7
6	Stanford University	Stanford, United States	96.1
7	ETH Zurich	Zürich, Switzerland	93.9
8	National University of Singapore (NUS)	Singapore	93.7
9	UCL	London, United Kingdom	91.6
10	California Institute of Technology (Caltech)	Pasadena, United States	90.9





Top-Ranked Universities-India

Rank	University	Location	Overall Score
118	Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB)	Mumbai, India	56.3
=150	Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IITD)	New Delhi, India	52.1
211	Indian Institute of Science	Bangalore, India	45.0
=222	Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur (IIT-KGP)	Kharagpur, India	43.7
=227	Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM)	Chennai, India	43.5
263	Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK)	Kanpur, India	39.3
=328	University of Delhi	New Delhi, India	33.8
335	Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee (IITR)	Roorkee, India	33.4
=344	Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IITG)	Guwahati, India	32.9
383	Anna University	Chennai, India	30.6

77th World Health Assembly

The **International Health Regulations of 2005** are amended by the **77th World Health Assembly**, taking into account **300 recommendations from member states**. The purpose of amendments is to strengthen nations' capacity to anticipate and address pandemic and public health emergencies of global concern. They contain measures to support developing nations in creating, bolstering, and preserving the fundamental capacities mandated by the **IHR**, as well as measures to enable **fair access to pertinent health items during medical emergencies**.

Aim of the Amendment

Amendments aim at **improving countries' ability to prepare for and respond to Public Health Emergencies of International Concern and Pandemic Emergencies**. They include provisions for facilitating equitable access to relevant health products during health emergencies, as well as mobilizing financial resources to support developing countries in building, strengthening, and maintaining the core capacities required under the IHR.

Importance of 77th World Health Assembly

In its **77th session**, the theme for this year's event is **"Health For All: All for Health"**.

- To have a **deeper comprehension of the risks to and effects of global healthcare**.
- Key threats to global health are identified in the paper **Shaping the Future of Health and Healthcare**, along with possible solutions.

Why there is a need for World Health Assembly

Over the past few years, **society** has experienced a **wave of adverse events, including the COVID-19 pandemic, geopolitical conflicts and the impacts of the climate and energy crises**, which have engulfed **global health and healthcare**.

Every year, the World Health Assembly is tasked with tackling global healthcare challenges like these and deciding how best to overcome them.

What is the World Health Assembly

The **World Health Assembly** is the **governing body of the World Health Organization (WHO)**, an organization under the **United Nations (UN)** that is tasked with advancing **global health and ensuring that everyone has access to the best possible medical treatment**. Every year, representatives from WHO member states convene at the **UN headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland**, to discuss a particular healthcare agenda defined by the organization's Executive Board. There are **34 technically qualified members of the Executive Board** who are elected to **three-year terms**. Each year in January, they convene to decide on the agenda and any resolutions to be presented to the World Health Assembly for approval.

What does the Assembly do

The World Health Assembly's **delegates deliberate over the Executive Board's policy agenda** for the upcoming year and determine the health objectives and tactics that will direct the **WHO's efforts in the field of public health**. Voting to select the organization's **Director-General for a five-year term** is one of the organization's other duties. Head of the world's premier public health agency, **Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus**, was re-elected in 2022 to a second term in office. Along with overseeing financial policies, the Assembly also approves the proposed budget program to finance WHO activities in the future, tracks the implementation of work programs, and develops strategies to close gaps.

French Open 2024, Check Complete list of Winners

The **French Open 2024** witnessed a thrilling conclusion as the young Spanish sensation, **Carlos Alcaraz**, emerged victorious in the men's singles final. In a gruelling five-set battle against the formidable **Alexander Zverev**, Alcaraz showcased his resilience and skill, conquering the German with a scoreline of 6-3, 2-6, 5-7, 6-1, 6-2.

At just 21 years old, Alcaraz has etched his name in the annals of tennis history, becoming the youngest man in the **Open era** to achieve the remarkable feat of winning Grand Slam titles on all three surfaces – hard court, clay, and grass. This extraordinary accomplishment underscores his versatility and unwavering determination on the court.





Iga Swiatek Continues Her Dominance at Roland Garros

In the women's singles final, the indomitable **Iga Swiatek** once again reigned supreme at the iconic **Roland Garros** stadium. The 23-year-old Polish superstar clinched her fourth French Open title, solidifying her status as a true clay-court maestro. Swiatek's relentless performance saw her dismantle the challenge of **Jasmine Paolini** with a resounding 6-2, 6-1 scoreline. With this victory, Swiatek has etched her name alongside tennis legends, joining Belgium's **Justine Henin** in third place on the all-time list of most French Open titles won by a woman.

List of Winners French Open 2024:

Title	Winner	Runner up
Men's Singles	Carlos Alcaraz	Alexander Zverev
Women's Singles	Iga Swiatek	Jasmine Paolini
Men's doubles	Marcelo Arevalo & Mate Pavic	Simone Bolelli and Andrea Vavassori
Women's doubles	Coco Gauff & Katerina Siniakova	Sara Errani & Jasmine Paolini
Mixed doubles	Laura Siegemund and Edouard Roger-Vasselin	Desirae Krawczyk and Neal Skupski

Global Peace Index 2024: An Overview

The **Global Peace Index (GPI) 2024**, published by the **Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP)**, provides a comprehensive measure of global peacefulness, evaluating **163 independent states and territories**. This report highlights the trends, results, and economic impacts of violence across the world, offering valuable insights into the current state of peace and the factors influencing it.

Key Findings

Overall Peacefulness

- **Global Peace Deterioration:** The average level of global peacefulness deteriorated by 0.56% in 2024. This marks the fifth consecutive year of declining peacefulness.
- **Country Improvements and Deteriorations:** In the past year, 65 countries recorded improvements in peacefulness, while 97 countries saw deteriorations. This is the highest number of countries to experience a decline in a single year since the index's inception.

Regional Highlights

- **Most Peaceful Countries:** Iceland remains the most peaceful country, a position it has held since 2008, followed by Ireland, Austria, New Zealand, and Singapore.
- **Least Peaceful Countries:** Yemen is now the least peaceful country, followed by Sudan, South Sudan, Afghanistan, and Ukraine.

Regional Performance

- **Europe:** Europe continues to be the most peaceful region, despite a slight deterioration in peacefulness over the past year.
- **Middle East and North Africa (MENA):** MENA remains the least peaceful region, with significant conflicts in countries like Yemen and Sudan contributing to its low ranking.
- **North America:** North America recorded the largest regional deterioration, driven by increased violent crime and perceptions of criminality in both Canada and the US.

Trends in Peacefulness

- **Militarisation:** The Militarisation domain saw the largest year-on-year deterioration. Military expenditure (% of GDP) increased in 86 countries, reflecting broader trends of rising militarisation.
- **Ongoing Conflict:** The Ongoing Conflict domain also deteriorated significantly, influenced by ongoing wars in Gaza and Ukraine. The number of conflicts involving at least one state has reached a new high.
- **Safety and Security:** This domain recorded a slight improvement, driven by reductions in violent demonstrations, terrorism impact, and the homicide rate in several regions.

Economic Impact of Violence

- **Global Cost:** The economic impact of violence on the global economy in 2023 was \$19.1 trillion, equivalent to 13.5% of global GDP or \$2,380 per person.
- **Conflict Costs:** The conflict in Ukraine had a significant economic impact, shrinking Ukraine's economy by an estimated 30% in 2022. The Syrian civil war has led to an 85% drop in GDP since its onset.
- **Military and Security Expenditure:** Over 74% of the total economic impact of violence is attributed to military and internal security expenditure, with military spending alone accounting for \$8.4 trillion.

War in the 21st Century

- **Changing Nature of Conflict:** Modern warfare is increasingly characterised by technological advancements and geopolitical competition. Non-state actors are now more capable of engaging larger states using technologies like drones.
- **Internationalisation of Conflict:** Conflicts are becoming more internationalised, with 92 countries now engaged in conflicts beyond their borders. This complicates negotiation processes and prolongs conflicts.





- **Asymmetric Warfare:** The rise of asymmetric warfare, including drone attacks by non-state groups, has made conflicts more complex and harder to resolve.

Positive Peace and the Halo Approach

- **Positive Peace:** Defined as the attitudes, institutions, and structures that create and sustain peaceful societies, Positive Peace is crucial for forecasting and mitigating future conflicts.
- **Halo Approach:** IEP’s Halo approach provides a framework for analyzing societal systems and designing resilience-building programs. This adaptive approach helps in creating effective policies for building Positive Peace.

Table of Rankings

Rank	Country	Score	Change in Rank
1	Iceland	1.112	↔
2	Ireland	1.303	↔
3	Austria	1.313	↑1
4	New Zealand	1.323	↓1
5	Singapore	1.339	↑3
6	Switzerland	1.35	↑3
7	Portugal	1.372	↓1
8	Denmark	1.382	↓3
9	Slovenia	1.395	↓2
10	Malaysia	1.427	↑2
116	India	2.319	↑5
163	Yemen	3.397	↓2

Highlights of G7 Summit 2024

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 14, held a series of bilateral meetings with world leaders. The countries including UK counterpart **Rishi Sunak**, French President **Emmanuel Macron**, Ukrainian President **Volodymyr Zelensky**, and others, on the sidelines of the G7 Summit, in southern Italy’s Apulia. Later, the Prime Minister also met Pope Francis of the Vatican.

About G7 Summit

The **G7 Summit** is an international forum held annually for the leaders of the **G7 member states** of France, the **United States**, the **United Kingdom**, **Germany**, **Japan**, **Italy**, and **Canada** (in order of rotating presidency), and the **European Union** (EU).

Features of the G7 Summit

At the G7 Summit, the leaders of the G7, which shares fundamental values such as **freedom, democracy** and **human rights**, exchange candid views on important challenges the international community is facing at that time, such as the global economy, regional affairs and various global issues, and issue a document as an outcome of such discussions. With the leadership of the leaders of the G7, which shares fundamental values, the G7 has effectively responded to important challenges that the international community faces.

The Beginning of the G7 Summit

In the **1970s**, developed countries that faced various challenges such as the Nixon shock (1971) and the first oil crisis (1973) began recognizing the need to create a forum to comprehensively discuss policy coordination of macro economy, currency, trade, and energy, among others, at a leader’s level. Against this backdrop, proposed by then-French President Giscard d’Estaing, the **first Summit** was held in **November 1975** at the Chateau de Rambouillet (located in the outskirts of Paris), with participation from six countries-**France, the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, Japan, and Italy**. Since then, Summits have been held **annually** with revolving Presidency. **Russia’s membership** was suspended in **March 2014** in response to its annexation of Crimea.

About 2024 G7 Summit

The **50th G7** includes **Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom**, and the **United States**. **Italy**, hosting the summit, has invited African leaders-Algerian President **Abdelmadjid Tebboune**, Kenyan President **William Ruto**, and Tunisian President **Kais Saied**-to discuss Meloni’s plans for development and migration in **Africa**. Other guests include Ukrainian President **Zelenskyy**, Brazilian President **Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva**, Indian **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, and Turkish President **Recep Tayyip Erdogan**. Many G7 countries are also experiencing political changes. With Biden, UK Prime Minister **Rishi Sunak**, and French President **Emmanuel Macron** facing elections soon, there is pressure on the G7 to achieve as much as possible while the current leadership remains.

Theme of this year summit

The theme of this year’s summit, which will be attended by President **Recep Tayyip Erdoğan** of the Republic of Turkiye, as a special guest, has been set as **“rules-based international system.”**

Italy’s agenda for the 2024 summit?

The **2024, 50th G7** summit will be held from **13 to 15 June in Apulia**, in Italy. It will be the first major international forum hosted by the Italian prime minister, **Giorgia Meloni**, since she





took office in October 2022. As well as the wars in **Ukraine and Gaza**, Italy says it wants the summit to **focus on Africa and migration, economic security, and international co-operation** on artificial intelligence (AI).

Focus of this year summit

- **Supporting Ukraine’s Fight for Freedom:** G7 leaders announced a plan to provide Ukraine with \$50 billion in new financing by bringing forward the interest earned on immobilized Russian sovereign assets held in the European Union and other jurisdictions. The Biden Administration this week issued a sweeping set of new sanctions and export control measures, guided by G7 commitments to intensify the pressure on Russia for its war against Ukraine. In Puglia, President Biden and President Zelensky signed the U.S.-Ukraine Bilateral Security Agreement as a demonstration of enduring U.S. support for Ukraine, including through binding commitments to deepen our security and defense cooperation and to consult in the event of a future armed attack.
- **Advancing International Peace, Security, and Prosperity:** The G7’s work is grounded in a shared commitment to respect the UN Charter, promote international peace and security, and uphold the free and open rules-based international order.
- **Promoting Economic Resilience and Economic Security:** President Biden rallied the G7 to take further steps to protect our workers, industries, and the investments.
- **Partnering with Developing Countries to Invest in their Future:** The G7 is taking ambitious steps to scale up support to developing countries and accelerate progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals.
- **Accelerating the Clean Energy Transition to Address Climate Change:** The G7 is accelerating its work to address the challenges of climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss.

- **Promoting Health and Food Security:** The G7 continues to lead global efforts to address the food security crisis and support strong, resilient and responsive health systems around the world.
- **Investing in Childcare to Support Women’s Economic Participation:** The G7 is tackling the unequal gender distribution of care work, which contributes to gender inequality.
- **Enhancing Our Partnership on Migration:** Drawn from the principles of the Los Angeles Declaration on Migration and Protection that President Biden launched at the Summit of the Americas in 2022, the G7 affirmed a collective commitment to addressing migration in ways that reflect both the challenges and opportunities it presents.
- **Deepening Cooperation on Artificial Intelligence:** In line with the Biden Administration’s vision laid out in the October 2023 Executive Order on the Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence, the G7 is building partnerships around the world to ensure the benefits of artificial intelligence and other technologies are widely shared while mitigating risks.
- **Increasing Coordination to Promote AI Safety:** G7 leaders committed to step up efforts to enhance interoperability between our respective approaches to AI governance and risk management.

India’s Environment Performance in 2024

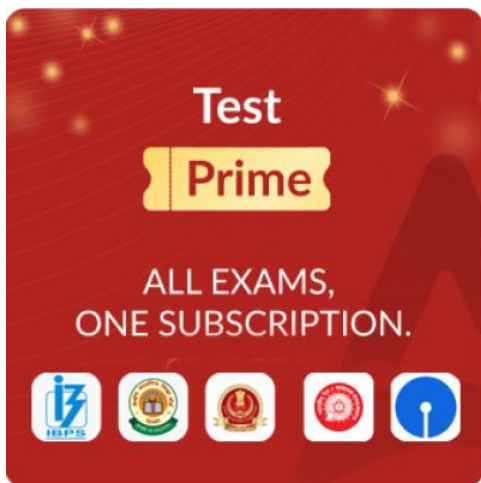
India’s latest ranking in the **Environmental Performance Index (EPI) for 2024** places it at **176th out of 180 countries**, reflecting slight improvement from previous years but still positioning it among the **world’s lowest performers**. The index, prepared by **Yale and Columbia universities**, highlights India’s struggles in crucial areas like air quality, biodiversity, and greenhouse gas emissions.

Top 10 Countries in the Environmental Performance Index 2024

1. **Estonia** – Score: 75.3
2. **Luxembourg** – Score: 75.0
3. **Germany** – Score: 74.6
4. **Finland** – Score: 73.7
5. **United Kingdom** – Score: 72.7
6. **Sweden** – Score: 70.5
7. **Norway** – Score: 70.0
8. **Austria** – Score: 69.0
9. **Switzerland** – Score: 68.0
10. **Denmark** – Score: 67.9

Environmental Challenges

India faces severe challenges in several key environmental metrics:





Air Quality

Continues to be a major concern, with India ranking poorly in air quality compared to global standards, surpassing even its South Asian neighbors.

Biodiversity and Habitat

Scores poorly in measures related to ecosystem vitality, species protection, and terrestrial biome preservation.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Despite efforts in renewable energy, India remains one of the largest emitters globally, impacting climate change efforts.

Progress Amid Challenges

While India ranks low overall, there are areas showing improvement:

Climate Change

Notwithstanding its overall low ranking, India's efforts in climate change mitigation have been recognized, particularly with initiatives in renewable energy and a commitment to achieving net-zero emissions by 2070.

Sector-Specific Gains

India's scores are bolstered by advancements in waste management, forest conservation, and agricultural practices.

Policy and International Comparisons

Coal Dependence

Heavy reliance on coal continues to hamper India's environmental performance, contributing significantly to air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

Global Context

The index highlights disparities among nations, with India's ranking affected by the relative progress of other countries in environmental stewardship.

Future Challenges and Financial Needs

Sustainability Goals

India faces substantial challenges in achieving sustainability across multiple fronts, necessitating significant financial investments estimated at \$160 billion annually to meet climate goals and environmental targets.

India's Environmental Performance: Key Points

Ranking

India ranks 176th out of 180 countries in the 2024 Environmental Performance Index.

Challenges

- **Air Quality:** India faces severe challenges with air quality, often exceeding safe limits.
- **Biodiversity:** Concerns over ecosystem vitality, species protection, and habitat preservation.
- **Greenhouse Gas Emissions:** One of the largest global emitters, impacting climate change efforts.

Progress

- **Climate Change Initiatives:** Pursuing renewable energy projects and aiming for net-zero emissions by 2070.
- **Sector-Specific Improvements:** Advancements in waste management, forest conservation, and agriculture.

Policy and International Comparisons

- **Coal Dependence:** Heavy reliance on coal remains a significant environmental challenge.
- **Global Context:** India's ranking affected by the environmental progress of other nations.

Future Needs

- **Financial Investments:** Estimated \$160 billion annually needed for climate mitigation efforts and environmental sustainability.

PM Modi Inaugurates New Campus of Nalanda University in Bihar

On **June 19**, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **new campus of Nalanda University**, an international institution of learning near the ancient ruins of Nalanda in Rajgir, Bihar. The PM asserted that Nalanda is a **symbol of India's academic heritage** and a proclamation of the enduring nature of knowledge.

Establishment and Functioning

The **Parliament of India** established Nalanda University through the **Nalanda University Act, 2010**, based on decisions taken at the East Asia Summits in 2007 and 2009.

The university started functioning in 2014 from a temporary location with 14 students, and construction of the new campus began in 2017.

Representatives from **17 participating countries**, including ambassadors and ministers, attended the inauguration event.

Reviving a Global Centre of Learning

PM Modi emphasized that the **renaissance of Nalanda University** will introduce India's potential to the world and once again become a **major centre for cultural exchange**. He highlighted that the heritage of many countries and Asia is linked to Nalanda, which flourished for 800 years before its destruction in the 12th century.





Promoting Sustainability and Knowledge

The Prime Minister stressed that India has lived as a model of sustainability for centuries and should become a **centre of education and knowledge for the world**. He expressed his vision for India to have the world’s most comprehensive skill system and an advanced research-oriented higher education system.

International Participation and Offerings

Nalanda University has participation from **17 nations**, including Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, and others, who have signed MoUs in support of the university.

The university offers **137 scholarships** to international students, sponsored by various organizations and countries.

It provides **Post Graduate and Doctoral research courses**, as well as short-term certificate courses.

PM’s Commitment and Vision

PM Modi emphasized the Central government’s commitment to providing all possible support to Nalanda University. He encouraged students to be curious, courageous, and kind, expressing confidence that the youth will provide leadership to the world, and Nalanda will become an important centre for global causes.

The article is written in simple language, with headings and subheadings. Important keywords are highlighted, and the word limit of 600 words is maintained. The tone of the article is in the style of “Important Days” types, focusing on the inauguration of the new campus of Nalanda University, its historical significance, and PM Modi’s vision for reviving India’s academic heritage and promoting sustainability and knowledge.

Sweden Tops, India at 63rd Rank on Global Energy Transition Index: WEF

According to the Global Energy Transition Index released by the **World Economic Forum (WEF) on 19 June 2024, India has been ranked 63rd out of 120 countries**, improving three ranks from **last year’s 67th position**. Sweden has again topped the Index, reflecting its continued leadership in energy transition. The WEF highlighted India’s significant advancements in energy equity, security, and sustainability.

Global Energy Transition Index Overview

The Global Energy Transition Index, published annually by the WEF in association with Accenture, evaluates nations’ progress and preparedness in building an equitable, secure, and sustainable energy future. It tracks government policies and their effectiveness in reducing carbon dioxide emissions, promoting non-fossil-based power sources, and enhancing energy efficiency.

2024 Rankings

European nations dominate the 2024 Index’s top ranks:

1. Sweden
2. Denmark
3. Finland
4. Switzerland
5. France

China is ranked 20th, while India stands at 63rd. The report indicates that 107 out of 120 countries have shown progress in their energy transition over the past decade, despite challenges such as economic volatility and geopolitical tensions.

India’s Progress and Global Role

The WEF commended India’s initiatives in encouraging non-fossil-based energy sources, particularly solar energy. India’s improvements in energy security, equity, and sustainability are noteworthy, positioning the country as a critical player in the global energy transition alongside China. India is now the fourth largest in the renewable energy market globally, with renewable energy and biomass comprising 42% of its power generation capacity. Significant investments are also being made in electric vehicles and green hydrogen.

World Economic Forum

Founded in 1971 by German economist Klaus Schwab, the WEF is a non-profit international organization **headquartered in Cologny, Switzerland**. It aims to foster collaboration between global stakeholders to address common challenges. The WEF publishes several influential reports, including the Global Gender Gap Report, Global Competitiveness Report, Global Travel and Tourism Report, and Global IT Report.

Implications and Recommendations

The WEF suggests that other nations can replicate India’s policies and innovative initiatives for a green energy transition. Despite progress, the report urges further efforts to reduce coal usage and emissions, emphasizing the potential of green technology in shaping the future of energy systems globally.

World Economic Forum: Key Points

Purpose

- **Collaboration Platform:** Facilitates cooperation among business, political, academic, and other leaders to address global challenges.
- **Global Issues:** Focuses on shaping global, regional, and industry agendas to improve the state of the world.

Foundation

- **Founded:** 1971
- **Founder:** Klaus Schwab, a German economist

Headquarters

- **Location:** Cologny, Switzerland

Key Activities

- **Annual Meetings:** Hosts annual meetings in Davos, Switzerland, bringing together global leaders from various sectors.
- **Reports and Research:** Publishes influential reports like the Global Gender Gap Report, Global Competitiveness Report, Energy Transition Index, and Global IT Report.
- **Initiatives:** Launches initiatives and partnerships to address issues such as climate change, economic development, and social inclusion.





Notable Reports

- **Global Gender Gap Report**
- **Global Competitiveness Report**
- **Energy Transition Index**
- **Global Travel and Tourism Report**
- **Global IT Report** (in collaboration with INSEAD and Cornell University)

Overall Mission

- **Improving the State of the World:** Aims to drive impactful actions through public-private cooperation and innovative solutions for global progress.

53rd GST Council Meeting Overview

The **53rd GST Council** met under the Chairpersonship of Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs **Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman** in New Delhi. The meeting was attended by key officials, including Union Minister of State for Finance Shri Pankaj Chaudhary, Chief Ministers of Goa and Meghalaya, Deputy Chief Ministers of Bihar, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, and Odisha, Finance Ministers of States & UTs (with legislature), and senior officers of the Ministry of Finance & States/ UTs.

Key Recommendations and Decisions

The GST Council made several recommendations concerning changes in GST tax rates, trade facilitation measures, and compliance streamlining in GST.

Changes in GST Tax Rates

GST Rates on Goods

- **Uniform IGST Rate on Aircraft Parts:** A uniform rate of 5% IGST will apply to imports of parts, components, testing equipment, tools, and tool-kits of aircrafts to boost MRO activities.
- **Milk Cans GST Rate:** All milk cans (steel, iron, aluminum) will attract a 12% GST rate.
- **Paper Products GST Rate Reduction:** The GST rate on carton, boxes, and cases of both corrugated and non-corrugated paper or paper-board has been reduced from 18% to 12%.
- **Solar Cookers GST Rate:** All solar cookers, whether single or dual energy source, will attract 12% GST.
- **Poultry Keeping Machinery:** The GST entry covering poultry keeping machinery attracting 12% GST has been amended to specifically incorporate “parts of poultry keeping machinery” and regularize past practice.
- **Sprinklers GST Rate:** All types of sprinklers, including fire water sprinklers, will attract 12% GST.
- **Defence Forces IGST Exemption:** The IGST exemption on imports of specified items for defence forces has been extended for five years till 30th June 2029.

- **RAMA Programme IGST Exemption:** IGST exemption on imports of research equipment/buoys under the RAMA programme has been extended subject to conditions.
- **Compensation Cess on SEZ Imports:** Compensation Cess on imports in SEZ by SEZ Unit/developers for authorized operations is exempted w.e.f. 01.07.2017.
- **Miscellaneous Exemptions:** Compensation Cess on supply of aerated beverages and energy drinks to authorized customers by Unit Run Canteens under Ministry of Defence and Adhoc IGST exemption on imports of technical documentation for AK-203 rifle kits for Indian Defence forces are also recommended.

GST Rates on Services

- **Indian Railways Services Exemption:** Services provided by Indian Railways to the general public, such as platform tickets, retiring rooms/waiting rooms, cloakroom services, and battery-operated car services, are exempt from GST.
- **SPV Services Exemption:** Services provided by Special Purpose Vehicles (SPV) to Indian Railways for infrastructure use during the concession period and maintenance services by Indian Railways to SPV are exempt.
- **Accommodation Services Exemption:** Accommodation services valued up to Rs. 20,000 per month per person supplied for a minimum continuous period of 90 days are exempt from GST.
- **Co-insurance and Re-insurance Services:** Co-insurance premium apportioned by lead insurer to the co-insurer and transactions of ceding commission/re-insurance commission between insurer and re-insurer are declared as no supply under Schedule III of the CGST Act.
- **GST Liability on Reinsurance Services:** GST liability on reinsurance services of specified insurance schemes will be regularized retrospectively.
- **Retrocession Clarification:** Retrocession, re-insurance of re-insurance, is eligible for exemption under Sl. No. 36A of notification No. 12/2017-CTR.
- **RERA Statutory Collections:** Statutory collections by Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) are exempt from GST.
- **Incentive Sharing under RuPay and BHIM-UPI:** Further sharing of incentive under NPCI’s promotion scheme for RuPay Debit Cards and BHIM-UPI transactions is not taxable.

Measures for Facilitation of Trade

- **Section 128A Insertion for Conditional Waiver:** Section 128A will be inserted in CGST Act to provide conditional waiver of interest or penalty for demands raised under Section 73 for FY 2017-18 to FY 2019-20.
- **Reduction of Government Litigation:** Monetary limits for filing appeals in GST by the department before GST Appellate Tribunal, High Court, and Supreme Court are prescribed to reduce litigation.





- **Pre-deposit Amount for Appeals:** Pre-deposit amount for filing appeals under GST is reduced to ease cash flow for taxpayers.
- **GST on Extra Neutral Alcohol (ENA):** ENA used for manufacturing alcoholic liquor for human consumption is excluded from GST.
- **TCS Rate Reduction for ECOs:** TCS rate for supplies through Electronic Commerce Operators (ECOs) is reduced from 1% to 0.5%.
- **Appeal Filing Time in GST Appellate Tribunal:** The time for filing appeals in GST Appellate Tribunal is extended.
- **Relaxation in Section 16(4):** Section 16(4) of CGST Act is amended retrospectively for initial years to allow relaxation in availing input tax credit.
- **GSTR-4 Due Date Extension:** The due date for filing GSTR-4 for composition taxpayers is extended from 30th April to 30th June.
- **Interest Calculation in Rule 88B:** Amendment in rule 88B to exclude amounts in the Electronic Cash Ledger on due date from interest calculation for delayed return filing.
- **Section 11A Insertion:** Section 11A is inserted in CGST Act to regularize non-levy or short levy of GST due to common trade practices.
- **Refund of Additional IGST on Export:** A mechanism for claiming refund of additional IGST paid on upward revision in price of exported goods is prescribed.

Clarifications and Compliance Measures

- **Valuation of Import of Services:** Value of import of services by a related person, where the recipient is eligible for full input tax credit, is clarified.
- **Input Tax Credit on Optical Fiber Cables:** ITC is not restricted for ducts and manholes used in Optical Fiber Cable networks.
- **Place of Supply for Custodial Services:** Place of supply for custodial services provided by Indian Banks to Foreign Portfolio Investors is determined under Section 13(2) of the IGST Act.
- **Valuation of Corporate Guarantees:** Valuation of corporate guarantees between related persons is clarified, with amendments to rule 28(2) of CGST Rules.
- **Reverse Charge Mechanism Invoices:** The relevant financial year for availing ITC under RCM is the year the invoice is issued by the recipient.
- **Miscellaneous Clarifications:** Clarifications on various issues, including taxability of re-imbursalment of securities, input tax credit reversals, and taxability of loans between related persons, are provided.

Additional Recommendations

- **Transitional Credit for ISD:** Amendment in section 140(7) of CGST Act to provide transitional credit for invoices before the appointed date.

- **GSTR-1A Facility:** A new optional facility in FORM GSTR-1A is provided for amending details before filing GSTR-13B.
- **Annual Return Exemption:** Filing of annual return in FORM GSTR-9/9A for FY 2023-24 is exempted for taxpayers with annual turnover up to two crore rupees.
- **Section 122(1B) Amendment:** Section 122(1B) of CGST Act is amended to clarify penal provisions for e-commerce operators.
- **Rule 142 Amendment:** Rule 142 of CGST Rules is amended for adjusting amounts paid against pre-deposit for appeals.

Biometric Aadhaar Authentication

- **Pan-India Rollout:** Biometric-based Aadhaar authentication for GST registration applicants is recommended on an All-India basis in a phased manner.

Common Time Limit for Demand Notices

- **Amendments in Sections 73 and 74:** Amendments to provide a common time limit for issuance of demand notices and orders for FY 2024-25 onwards.

Sunset Clause for Anti-Profitteering

- **Amendments in Sections 171 and 109:** Amendments to provide a sunset clause for anti-profitteering under GST and handling by GSTAT.

Export Duty and IGST Refunds

- **Amendments in Section 16 of IGST Act and Section 54 of CGST Act:** Refunds for goods subjected to export duty are restricted.

B2C Inter-State Supplies Reporting

- **Threshold Reduction:** The threshold for reporting B2C inter-State supplies in FORM GSTR-1 is reduced from Rs. 2.5 Lakh to Rs. 1 Lakh.

GSTR-7 Filing Requirements

- **Monthly Filing:** Registered persons required to deduct tax at source must file GSTR-7 monthly, even if no tax is deducted.

These comprehensive recommendations and clarifications from the 53rd GST Council meeting aim to streamline GST compliance, facilitate trade, and address various industry concerns.

Centre Notifies Anti-Paper Leak Law Amid NEET, NET Row

The Centre has introduced a stringent anti-paper leak law amid controversies surrounding the **NEET and UGC-NET exams**. The law, which came into force on June 21, 2024, imposes severe penalties, including up to 10 years of imprisonment and a fine of Rs 1 crore, to curb malpractices in competitive examinations.

Details of the Law

The new law, named the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024, aims to prevent cheating in public exams conducted by entities such as the UPSC, SSC, and NTA. It includes provisions for a minimum of three to five years of imprisonment for cheating, and five to ten years of imprisonment for organized cheating crimes, along with hefty fines.





Context and Immediate Reactions

The law’s enactment comes amidst allegations of paper leaks and subsequent cancellation of the UGC-NET 2024, affecting over 9 lakh candidates. The Opposition Congress has criticized the timing, calling it “**damage control.**” **Congress leader Jairam Ramesh** emphasized the need for proactive measures to prevent such leaks.

Exams Impacted by Paper Leaks

The NEET and UGC-NET exams have been at the center of the controversy, with the **CSIR-UGC NET** also facing similar allegations. The education ministry has postponed the CSIR-UGC NET scheduled for June 25-27, 2024, due to claims of a leak on the dark web. This scandal could delay the CUET-UG results, affecting undergraduate admissions in central universities.

Government and NTA Response

Following the allegations, the CBI has registered an FIR against unknown suspects for cheating and criminal conspiracy. The education ministry has instructed the NTA to take preventive measures to ensure the integrity of upcoming exams.

Implications

The implementation of this law marks the first major step towards addressing paper leaks in centrally-conducted public examinations. It highlights the government’s commitment to maintaining the integrity of the examination process, although it has sparked significant political debate and criticism.

National Current Affairs

National Current Affairs of December 2024

Cabinet Approvals

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by **PM Narendra Modi**, has approved the **26.463 km Rithala-Narela-Nathupur (Kundli) corridor under Delhi Metro's Phase-IV**, to be completed in 4 years at a cost of ₹6,230 crore. Implemented by DMRC, this elevated extension of the Red Line will comprise 21 stations, enhancing connectivity across Delhi, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh, including areas like Narela, Bawana, and Kundli. The project aims to reduce road congestion and pollution while boosting the region's economy. With over 56% construction completed for Phase-IV's 65.202 km priority corridors, Delhi Metro currently operates 12 lines spanning 392 km and 288 stations, serving up to 78.67 lakh passenger journeys daily, making it India's largest metro network and a vital lifeline for the NCR.
- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by PM Narendra Modi**, has approved the establishment of **28 new Navodaya Vidyalayas (NVs)** in uncovered districts under the Navodaya Vidyalaya Scheme at a total cost of ₹2,359.82 crore over five years (2024-29). These fully residential, co-educational schools will provide quality education from Classes VI to XII, predominantly for rural students, benefiting 15,680 students and creating 1,316 permanent jobs, along with opportunities for local vendors and workers. Currently, 653 of the 661 sanctioned NVs are functional, with nearly 49,640 students admitted annually to Class VI through a selection test. The schools, aligned with the National Education Policy 2020 and designated as PM Shri schools, have seen increased enrollment from girls (42%), SC (24%), ST (20%), and OBC (39%) students. Known for their excellent CBSE board results, NV students excel in engineering, medicine, armed forces, and civil services, showcasing the success of the scheme in promoting inclusive and quality education.

- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by PM Narendra Modi**, has approved the opening of **85 new Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs)** across the country under the Civil/Defence sector, along with the expansion of KV Shivamogga, Karnataka, by adding two sections to each class. This initiative, requiring an estimated ₹5,872.08 crore over eight years (2025-26 onwards), aims to provide quality education to 82,560 additional students and create 5,388 permanent jobs. KVs cater primarily to the children of transferable and non-transferable Central Government and Defence employees, as well as others in remote and underdeveloped areas. Established in 1962, KVs are known for their high-quality education, innovative pedagogy, and infrastructure, and are now designated as PM Shri schools under the National Education Policy 2020. With 1,256 functional KVs (including three abroad in Moscow, Kathmandu, and Tehran) and 13.56 lakh students enrolled, these schools consistently achieve top results in CBSE board exams, making them highly sought-after institutions for quality education.
- The **Geological Survey of India (GSI)** will collaborate with The Research Institute for **Geo-Hydrological Protection (CNR-IRPI), Italy**, through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) approved by the Union Cabinet on December 6, 2024. This partnership focuses on enhancing India's Landslide Early Warning Systems (LEWS) to international standards through collaborative research, aiming to improve landslide forecasting and mitigation, thereby preventing disasters like the Wayanad landslide in Kerala. GSI's National Landslide Forecasting Centre (NLFC) in Kolkata is already operational, providing daily landslide forecasts for Kalimpong, Darjeeling (West Bengal), and Nilgiri (Tamil Nadu), with testing underway in 13 additional districts. CNR-IRPI, a leader in developing regional LEWS models with advanced nowcasting capabilities, will contribute its expertise to integrate GSI's landslide maps with PM Gati Shakti, enhancing resilience in vulnerable hilly terrains. The collaboration plans to expand LEWS coverage with improved spatial and temporal resolutions across highly landslide-prone regions, ensuring sustainable development and environmental protection.





Parliament News

Lok Sabha Passes Railways (Amendment) Bill 2024 Amid Disruptions

- The Lok Sabha passed the **Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2024** during the Winter Session despite disruptions, with **Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw** addressing concerns over potential privatisation. The bill aims to subsume the **Railway Board Act, 1905**, into the **Railways Act, 1989**, simplifying the legal framework while empowering the Railway Board with statutory powers. Opposition leaders raised concerns over privatisation, centralisation of authority, and representation of marginalised communities, which the minister dismissed as unfounded.

Key Provisions of the Bill

- **Statutory Powers to Railway Board:** Grants the central government authority to determine the board’s composition, qualifications, and terms of service, ensuring operational flexibility.
- **Simplified Legal Framework:** Merges provisions of the Indian Railway Board Act, 1905, into the Railways Act, 1989, eliminating the need for dual references.
- **Enhanced Connectivity:** Facilitates superfast train operations and expansions, including rerouting through Thawe Junction in Bihar, to benefit local communities and pilgrims.

Ministerial Clarifications and Achievements

- **Privatisation Concerns Dismissed:** Vaishnaw assured that railway assets remain government-owned, describing privatisation fears as a “fake narrative.”
- **Decentralisation Emphasised:** Highlighted 100% delegation of tendering powers to zone general managers, accelerating project approvals and decentralisation.
- **Improved Passenger Services:** Cited plans for 13,000 additional trains and ongoing production of 10,000 general coaches to cater to low-income passengers.



Historical Context and Need for Amendments

- **Legislative Evolution:** The Indian Railways Act, 1890, governed railway operations until replaced by the Railways Act, 1989, which lacked statutory provisions for the Railway Board.
- **Simplification Goal:** By incorporating the Railway Board Act of 1905, the amendment aligns historical provisions into a single, comprehensive framework for efficiency.

Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024 Set To Introduce in the Lok Sabha

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is set to introduce the **Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024 in the Lok Sabha** on 2nd December, 2024. The bill aims to amend several key banking-related legislations, including the **Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, the State Bank of India Act, 1955, and the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Acts of 1970 and 1980**. The amendments are expected to enhance the functioning and regulation of the banking sector, and the bill will be considered for debate and passage in the lower house of Parliament.

Key Amendments in the Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024

1. Definition of Fortnight for Cash Reserves

Current Definition

- The RBI Act defines a “fortnight” as the period from Saturday to the second following Friday (including both days) to calculate the average daily balance held by scheduled banks as cash reserves.

Proposed Amendment

The Bill changes the definition of a “fortnight” to:

- The period from the 1st day to the 15th day of each month, and
- The period from the 16th day to the last day of each month.

Impact

- This change also applies under the Banking Regulation Act, where non-scheduled banks are required to maintain cash reserves.

2. Tenure of Directors of Co-operative Banks

Current Rule

- Directors of co-operative banks (except the chairman or whole-time directors) **cannot hold office for more than eight consecutive years**.

Proposed Amendment

- The Bill seeks to increase the tenure for directors of co-operative **banks to 10 consecutive years**.

Impact

- This extension is expected to provide stability in the governance of co-operative banks.





3. Prohibition on Common Directors in Co-operative Banks

Current Rule

- The Banking Regulation Act prohibits a director from serving on the boards of more than one bank, with exceptions for directors appointed by the RBI.

Proposed Amendment

- The Bill extends this **exemption** to the directors of central co-operative banks, allowing them **to serve on the board of a state co-operative bank in which they are a member.**

Impact

- This aims to enhance coordination and strengthen the leadership within the co-operative banking system.

4. Substantial Interest in a Company

Current Rule

- The Banking Regulation Act defines “substantial interest” as holding shares worth more than ₹5 lakh or 10% of the paid-up capital, whichever is less.

Proposed Amendment

- The Bill increases this threshold to ₹2 crore**, allowing individuals and their families (spouse or minor children) to hold a larger stake before it is considered substantial.

Impact

- This change is expected to relax restrictions on shareholding, particularly benefiting larger investors and corporate entities.

5. Nomination for Deposits and Bank Products

Current Rule

- The Banking Regulation Act allows **depositors to appoint a single nominee** for their deposits, articles, or lockers.

Proposed Amendment

The Bill allows up to **four nominees** for,

- Deposits (either simultaneously or successively).
- Other items like articles and lockers (successively).

Impact

- The Bill outlines that in case of simultaneous nominations, the distribution will be according to a declared proportion. For successive nominations, the person listed first in the order of nomination will have priority.

Outcome

- This will facilitate the distribution of assets and clarify the rights of multiple nominees.

6. Settlement of Unclaimed Amounts

Current Rule

- Under the State Bank of India Act and the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Acts of 1970 and 1980, unpaid or unclaimed dividends are transferred to an unpaid dividend account, and after seven years, they are moved to the Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF).

Proposed Amendment

- The Bill widens the scope of funds that can be transferred to the IEPF, now including:
 - Shares for which dividends have not been claimed for seven consecutive years.
 - Interest or redemption amounts for bonds that remain unpaid/unclaimed for seven years.

Impact

- Individuals can claim unclaimed funds that have been transferred to the IEPF, helping to resolve outstanding claims and promote financial transparency.

7. Remuneration of Auditors

Current Rule

- The remuneration for auditors of banks is decided by the RBI in consultation with the central government.

Proposed Amendment

- The Bill empowers banks to **determine the remuneration for their auditors** independently.

Impact

- This amendment is expected to streamline the process and reduce bureaucratic involvement in the auditing procedures of banks.

State-wise October Month Important Events

Arunachal Pradesh

- Mission Arun Himveer** has been launched by the **Arunachal Pradesh Government** to improve market access for local farmers, SHGs, FPOs, and cooperatives. The **Arunachal Pradesh Agriculture Marketing Board (APAMB)** signed an MoU with ITBP to purchase **fruits, vegetables, meat, and poultry** directly from farmers. This initiative aims to boost **economic growth** in rural areas, support the **Vibrant Village Programme**, and promote **reverse migration**. A **₹4 crore revolving fund** will ensure farmers receive **100% payments**.
- The **4th Eaglenest Bird Festival** will be held from **January 17-19, 2025**, in **Khellong and Thongre village**, West Kameng District, **Arunachal Pradesh**. The festival, unveiled by **Chief Minister Pema Khandu**, celebrates the region's **biodiversity** and promotes **sustainable eco-tourism** and **community-driven conservation**.

Assam

- Assam Chief Minister **Himanta Biswa Sarma** announced a **complete ban on beef** in **hotels, restaurants, and public places** across the state, effective immediately. This move amends existing laws, extending the ban beyond the 5-km radius around **temples** and **religious sites** to include all **public functions** and events.





Bihar

- Bihar's **sex ratio at birth** has declined to **882 females per 1,000 males** in 2023-24, down from **894** in 2022-23, highlighting a severe gender imbalance. In response, the state has committed to stricter enforcement of the **PC-PNDT Act** and launched awareness campaigns to combat **female foeticide** and improve **gender parity**, positioning Bihar among India's **worst-performing states** in terms of child gender ratio.

Haryana

- On **Gita Jayanti 2024**, Bhopal set a **Guinness World Record** with over 5,000 **Acharyas** reciting '**Karma Yog**' from the **Bhagavad Gita**, while **Kurukshetra** saw **1.5 crore people** globally joining via an online platform. The event in Bhopal highlighted spiritual empowerment, with funds transferred to the **Ladli Behans welfare scheme**. In Kurukshetra, **18,000 children** chanted the Gita's verses, and leaders like **Haryana CM Nayab Singh Saini** and **Union Ministers** emphasized the Gita's impact on personal and societal growth.

Maharashtra

- **Devendra Fadnavis** has been elected as the leader of the **Maharashtra BJP legislature party**, paving the way for his **third term** as Chief Minister. Alongside him, **Eknath Shinde** and **Ajit Pawar** will serve as deputy chief ministers. The **BJP** won a historic **132 seats** in the **2024 Maharashtra elections**, contributing to the **Mahayuti coalition's** total of **230 seats**, securing a commanding majority.

Rajasthan

- **Amit Shah**, Union Home Minister, unveiled an **11-ft tall statue** of **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel** in **Jodhpur, Rajasthan**. The statue, weighing **1,100 kg** and made of multiple metals, stands on an **8-ft pedestal**. Shah highlighted Patel's contributions to India's unity and his recognition under **Prime Minister Narendra Modi's** leadership. The ceremony was attended by **Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** and other dignitaries.

Telangana

- **Telangana** has joined India's **mineral auction regime**, auctioning two **limestone blocks** in **Sultanpur** and **Saidulnama** to **NCL Industries** and **Deccan Cement**. This makes Telangana the **14th state** to participate, responding to the Centre's push for auctioning **critical minerals**. The state's move aims to boost **mineral production** for industries like **cement manufacturing**, with more auctions expected.
- The **Telangana government**, under **CM A. Revanth Reddy**, will launch the **Rythu Bharosa Scheme** after **Sankranti**, providing **₹15,000** annual subsidies to farmers. This scheme replaces the previous **Rythu Bandhu** and aims to improve farmers' welfare. Additionally, the government has cleared **₹7,625 crore** in **crop loan arrears** for **Kharif 2023** and waived loans up to **₹2 lakh** for **25.35 lakh farmers**, marking a historic

move. **Subsidies** for palm oil, drip irrigation, and fodder seeds are also continued, with an **₹8,000 crore** allocation.

- Google and the **Telangana government** have signed an agreement to establish the **Google Safety Engineering Centre (GSEC)** in **Hyderabad**, Google's second such center in Asia Pacific. The center will focus on **AI-driven security**, advancing **cybersecurity capabilities**, and creating **employment opportunities**. GSEC will enhance **cybersecurity** for **businesses, governments, and citizens**, while strengthening **Hyderabad's** position as a global leader in IT and cybersecurity.

West Bengal

- **West Bengal** has gained international recognition with **UNESCO** declaring it a top destination for **heritage tourism**. **Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee** highlighted the state's growth in **religious, heritage, and tea tourism**, driving job creation for youth. The focus on enhancing **religious sites** and **heritage spots** is elevating the state's position in India's tourism sector.

Uttar Pradesh

- The **Uttar Pradesh government** has declared the **Maha Kumbh area** in **Prayagraj** as the new **Maha Kumbh Mela district** ahead of the **January 2025 Kumbh Mela**. This move aims to improve **administration, coordination, law enforcement, and resource management** for the event, which attracts millions of pilgrims.
- Under **Yogi Adityanath's** leadership, **Uttar Pradesh** has made significant strides in **cow protection** and welfare, focusing on indigenous cow breeds and increasing **milk production**. The **Gorakshapeeth** plays a key role in preserving native cow breeds, with the **Gorakhnath Temple's** cowshed dedicated to cow protection. These efforts aim to make Uttar Pradesh a leader in **cow milk production**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated **167 development projects** worth **₹5,500 crore** in **Prayagraj** to enhance infrastructure and amenities for the **Maha Kumbh 2025**. The projects focus on improving **city infrastructure, transportation, and facilities** for pilgrims. Modi also launched the **Sah'Al'yak Chatbot**, an **AI-based platform** for seamless communication with pilgrims. He emphasized the **cultural, spiritual, and economic significance** of the event, promoting **unity and national integration**.

Union Territories:

- Uber has launched **Asia's first water transport service, Uber Shikara**, in **Dal Lake, Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir**. This service modernizes the traditional **shikara ride**, combining **technology** with **Kashmir's cultural heritage** to enhance the **tourism experience**. Launched by **Uber India President Prabhjeet Singh**, it aims to improve **accessibility** and make the shikara ride more **convenient** for tourists.





Miscellaneous National News

- The **New Pamban Bridge**, India's first **vertical lift railway sea bridge**, is replacing the 105-year-old **Pamban Bridge** to improve connectivity between the **Indian mainland** and **Rameswaram**, Tamil Nadu. The **2.05 km bridge**, costing **Rs 535 crore**, features a fully automated vertical lift span for **22 meters of air clearance** for ships. Designed for **double tracks** and **high-speed trains**, it began construction in **February 2020**, with completion expected by **June 30, 2024**, after delays due to the **pandemic**. The original bridge was decommissioned in **December 2022**.
- The **Ministry of Ayush**, under **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, has transformed into a global leader in traditional medicine since its inception in **2014**. Key achievements include over **755,780 registered practitioners**, **886 undergraduate** and **251 postgraduate colleges**, and **3,844 hospitals** with **36,848 dispensaries**. The Ministry has also expanded infrastructure with **satellite centers** of **AIIA**, **NIUM**, and **NIH**, adding **400 education seats** and **550 beds**, aligning with **UN SDGs** and **Universal Health Coverage**.
- **PRAGATI** (Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation), launched under **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, has transformed **India's infrastructure development**. The platform fosters **accountability** and **collaboration** between federal and regional authorities, accelerating delayed projects. A study by **Oxford University** and the **Gates Foundation** highlights its impact, overseeing **\$205 billion** worth of projects.
- India's **tiger population** has grown significantly, reaching **3,682** in 2022, up from **1,411** in 2006, reflecting a **6% annual increase** in monitored areas. This growth is attributed to conservation efforts under **Project Tiger** and the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)**. Key regional trends include a rise in **Central India** and **Eastern Ghats** (1,033 to 1,439), **Shivalik-Gangetic Plains** (646 to 819), and **Sundarbans** (88 to 101), while **Northeastern India** saw a decline, particularly in **Arunachal Pradesh** (29 to 9).
- **Ratapani Tiger Reserve**, located in Madhya Pradesh, has been officially designated as India's **57th Tiger Reserve**. Spanning **1,271.4 sq km**, it includes a **763.8 sq km core area** and a **507.6 sq km buffer area**. This move strengthens India's commitment to **tiger conservation** and reinforces Madhya Pradesh's status as the "**Tiger State of India**".
- The **National Legal Metrology Portal (eMaap)**, introduced by the **Indian government**, aims to ensure **fair trade** and **consumer protection** by promoting transparency and compliance with metrology standards. The **digital platform** will streamline registration, certification, and provide **automated workflows** for businesses. It also focuses on **consumer awareness** and grievance redressal for measurement issues.
- India has declared **snakebite** a **notifiable disease**, aiming to reduce the high mortality and morbidity rates, particularly in rural and tribal areas. This move, announced by the **Union Health Ministry** in November 2024, mandates **reporting of**

all snakebite cases in healthcare facilities. It aligns with the **WHO's target** to halve global snakebite deaths and injuries by 2030, enhancing **surveillance**, treatment, and prevention strategies.

- **Shri Pralhad Joshi**, Union Minister, launched **Anna Chakra** and the **SCAN portal** to modernize India's **Public Distribution System (PDS)** and **subsidy claim** mechanisms. **Anna Chakra** aims to optimize the **PDS supply chain** for efficient food grain movement, while **SCAN** streamlines **subsidy claims** under the **National Food Security Act (NFSA)** with **single-window submission**, **automation**, and **rule-based processing** for faster subsidy release.
- The **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)** scheme, launched in 2015, has improved the **Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB)** from 918 in 2014-15 to 930 in 2023-24 and raised the **Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER)** for girls at the secondary level from 75.51% to 79.4%. The scheme focuses on eliminating gender-biased practices, promoting **girl child protection**, and **education**. It is centrally funded under the **Mission Shakti Sambal** vertical, with funds allocated based on SRB data. However, **West Bengal** has not implemented the scheme.
- The **Bharatiya Vayuyan Vidheyak, 2024** replaces the 90-year-old **Aircraft Act of 1934**, modernizing India's aviation regulations. Passed by **Parliament**, it aims to enhance **safety**, **affordability**, **governance**, and **consumer protection** while promoting **investment** and **self-reliance** in aircraft manufacturing. The bill also seeks to streamline processes and align with **international standards**. The renaming in **Hindi** reflects the government's goal to promote **indigenous identity** despite sparking debates.
- The **SMILE** sub-scheme, a **central government initiative**, aims to rehabilitate individuals, including **children**, involved in **begging**. Implemented across **81 cities** in **26 states and UTs**, it focuses on areas with significant **religious**, **historical**, or **tourist** importance. The scheme supports **reintegration** of marginalized individuals into society.
- India has been chosen to chair the **68th Session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)**, marking its first time in this role. **Ambassador Shambhu S Kumaran** assumed the chairmanship, overseeing global drug policy and international cooperation on drug control. The **CND** monitors drug trends, advises member states, and oversees international drug conventions, functioning under **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)**, based in Vienna, and is a functional commission of the **UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**.
- The **Supreme Court of India** granted a **permanent commission** to Lt. Col. in the Army, who was unfairly denied the same benefits as her male counterparts. The court highlighted **gender discrimination** and ruled that the officer should have received **age relaxation** like others in similar positions. This ruling aligns with the broader effort to ensure **equal opportunities** for women in the **armed forces**, as seen in a **2024 verdict** directing the government to grant permanent commissions to all female officers.





- The **22nd Divya Kala Mela** was inaugurated by **Union Minister Dr. Virendra Kumar** at **India Gate, New Delhi** from **December 12-22, 2024**. The event celebrates the **talent and entrepreneurial spirit** of **Divyang artisans and entrepreneurs**, aiming to enhance the **visibility and economic independence** of **persons with disabilities (PwDs)**. Organized by **DEPwD and NDFDC**, it features over **100 participants** from **20 states and UTs**.
- India has declared **Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary** in **Madhya Pradesh** as its **57th tiger reserve**, reinforcing its commitment to tiger conservation. This initiative is part of **Project Tiger (1973)**, which aims to protect tigers and their habitats. India now holds over **70%** of the world's wild tiger population.
- The **Supreme Court Collegium**, led by **CJI Sanjiv Khanna**, recommended the appointment of seven **Additional Judges** as **Permanent Judges** for the **Delhi, Karnataka, and Punjab & Haryana High Courts**. The appointments include **Justice Shalinder Kaur** and **Justice Ravinder Dudeja** (Delhi), **Justice Ramachandra Huddar**, **Justice Venkatesh Naik Thavaryanaik**, **Justice Vijaykumar Patil**, and **Justice Rajesh Rai Kallangala** (Karnataka), and **Justice Harpreet Singh Brar** (Punjab & Haryana). This move addresses judicial vacancies in the High Courts.
- India joins 197 nations at the 16th Conference of the Parties (COP) of the **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)**, which commenced on December 2, 2024, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, marking the convention's first-ever session in West Asia. **Union Minister Bhupender Yadav** and **Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini** lead India's delegation, presenting the ambitious Aravalli Green Wall Project and showcasing India's commitment to combating desertification.

Key Highlights of UNCCD COP16

- **Theme and Focus:** The 16th COP centers on the theme "Our Land. Our Future," emphasizing sustainable land management to reverse desertification and land degradation globally.
- **Historic Context:** The UNCCD, one of the three agreements from the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, entered into force in 1996 and includes 197 parties. The conference occurs biennially, with COP15 held in May 2022 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

National Current Affairs of November 2024

Cabinet Approvals

- Cabinet approves **PM-Vidyalaxmi scheme** to provide financial support to meritorious students so that financial constraints do not prevent any youth of India from pursuing quality higher education. A mission mode mechanism will facilitate and drive the extension of education loans to meritorious students who get admission in the top 860

quality higher educational institutions of the nation, translating to covering more than 22 lakh students every year. A special loan product will enable for collateral free, guarantor free education loans; made accessible through a simple, transparent, student-friendly and entirely digital application process. Loan amounts up to ₹ 7.5 lakhs will be provided a 75% credit guarantee by the Government of India, to support banks to expand coverage. This is in addition to the full interest subvention already offered to students with up to Rs. 4.5 lakhs annual family income.

- Cabinet approves infusion of equity of **Rs.10,700 crore in Food Corporation of India** by way of conversion of Ways and Means Advance to equity in 2024-25. The decision is aimed at bolstering the agricultural sector and ensuring the welfare of farmers nationwide. This strategic move shows the Government's steadfast commitment to supporting farmers and fortifying India's agrarian economy.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by the **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi**, has approved **infusion of equity of Rs.10,700 crore for working capital in financial year 2024-25 in Food Corporation of India (FCI)**. The decision is aimed at bolstering the agricultural sector and ensuring the welfare of farmers nationwide. This strategic move shows the Government's steadfast commitment to supporting farmers and fortifying India's agrarian economy.
- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the continuation of its flagship initiative, the **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)**, under the aegis of NITI Aayog, with an enhanced scope of work and an allocated budget of **Rs.2,750 crore for the period till March 31, 2028**. AIM 2.0 is a step towards Viksit Bharat that aims to expand, strengthen, and deepen India's already vibrant innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem.
- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved **One Nation One Subscription**, a new Central Sector Scheme for providing country-wide access to scholarly research articles and journal publication. The scheme will be administered through a simple, user friendly and fully digital process. This will be a "One Nation One Subscription" facility for the government higher education institutions and R&D laboratories of the central government. A total of about **Rs.6,000 crore** has been allocated for One Nation One Subscription for 3 calendar years, 2025, 2026 and 2027 as a new Central Sector Scheme. One Nation One Subscription will build on and further enhance the scope and reach of the range of initiatives undertaken by the Government of India over the past decade in the domains of education, for maximizing access to quality higher education for the youth of India. This will supplement the ANRF initiative to promote research and development and foster a culture of research and innovation throughout government universities, colleges, research institutions, and R&D laboratories.





- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved investment of **Rs.1750 crore** for construction of Talo-I Hydro Electric Project (HEP) in Shi Yomi District of Arunachal Pradesh. **The estimated completion period for the project is 50 months. The project with an installed capacity of 186 MW (3 x 62 MW) would produce 802 Million Units (MU) of energy.** The Power generated from the Project will help improve the power supply position in the state of Arunachal Pradesh and will also help in balancing of the national Grid.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved investment of **Rs.1939 crore** for construction of **Heo Hydro Electric Project (HEP) in Shi Yomi District of Arunachal Pradesh.** The estimated completion period for the project is 50 months. The project with an installed capacity of 240 MW (3 x 80 MW) would produce 1000 Million Units (MU) of energy. The Power generated from the Project will help improve the power supply position in the state of Arunachal Pradesh and will also help in balancing of the national Grid.
- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs**, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved three multi-tracking projects for the **Ministry of Railways with a total cost of ₹7,927 crore, covering the Jalgaon–Manmad 4th line (160 km), Bhusawal–Khandwa 3rd & 4th lines (131 km), and Prayagraj (Iradatganj)–Manikpur 3rd line (84 km).** Spanning Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh, these projects will enhance the Indian Railways network by 639 km, benefiting two Aspirational Districts (Khandwa and Chitrakoot) and serving over 38 lakh people across 1,319 villages. Aimed at easing operations and reducing congestion on the Mumbai–Prayagraj–Varanasi route, they will facilitate additional passenger trains, boost tourism to religious and heritage sites, and support freight traffic of 51 MTPA, transporting commodities like agriculture products, coal, and steel. These developments align with the PM-Gati Shakti National Master Plan for seamless multi-modal connectivity, contributing to employment, self-reliance, reduced logistics costs, and climate goals by lowering CO2 emissions equivalent to planting 11 crore trees.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi**, has approved the **₹1,435 crore PAN 2.0 Project of the Income Tax Department**, aimed at transforming taxpayer registration services through technology-driven solutions. This e-Governance initiative will re-engineer PAN/TAN services, consolidating core and non-core activities and upgrading the current **PAN/TAN 1.0 system** for an enhanced digital experience. Key benefits include ease of access, faster and higher-quality service delivery, data consistency, eco-friendly processes, cost optimization, and improved security with agile infrastructure. Aligned with the Government's Digital India vision, PAN 2.0 will enable PAN to serve as a Common Identifier for all digital systems of specified government agencies.

State-wise October Month Important Events

Andhra Pradesh

- In a significant step forward for the development of **Amaravati, the capital city of Andhra Pradesh**, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have agreed to **grant a loan of ₹13,500 crore** for its development.

Assam

- On **November 21, 2024**, the **Assam government** renamed **Karimganj district to Sribhumi** and its headquarters to **Sribhumi town**, honoring the region's **cultural heritage** and fulfilling a **longstanding local demand**.
- The **12th Edition of the International Tourism Mart (ITM)** held in **Kaziranga, Assam**, highlighting the tourism potential of **Northeast India**. Inaugurated by **Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat**, with **Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sharma** and **Arunachal Pradesh CM Pema Khandu** in attendance, the event aims to promote the region's **cultural, natural, and biodiversity-rich** tourism, fostering collaboration among **tourism professionals, buyers, sellers, and government agencies**.

Bihar

- **Sultanganj railway station** in Bihar's **Bhagalpur district** is set to be renamed in honor of the revered **Hindu shrine, Ajgaibinath Dham**.
- Bihar will host the **Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG)** and **Para Games (KIPG)** in **April 2025**, reflecting its capability to host major sporting events. Announced by **Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya**, this aligns with the vision of a **'Viksit Bharat' by 2047**.

Chhattisgarh

- Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, **Shri Bhupender Yadav**, announced the notification of the **Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve** in **Chhattisgarh** as the **56th Tiger Reserve** in India. Spanning **2,829.38 sq. km**, it is the third-largest tiger reserve in India, following **Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem** in Andhra Pradesh and **Manas Tiger Reserve** in Assam.

Gujarat

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** laid the foundation stone and **inaugurated projects worth over ₹284 crore** in the Narmada district, which is home to the iconic Statue of Unity.
- Australia's **University of Wollongong (UOW)** has officially inaugurated its India campus at **Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City)** in **Gandhinagar**. The campus will offer Master's degrees in **Financial Technology** and a **Graduate Certificate** in the field, marking a strategic entry into India's expanding **fintech sector**. This development follows **Deakin University's** campus opening in GIFT City in **July 2024**, further enhancing the educational landscape in India.





- The **Gujarat government** launched the **Cottage and Rural Industries Policy 2024-29** to strengthen the cottage industry, preserve handicrafts, and boost its market presence. The policy focuses on **increased credit support, infrastructure development**, and promoting local products through initiatives like **One District One Product (ODOP)** and **GI tagging** for intellectual property protection. The policy was announced by **Ministers Balvantsinh Rajput and Jagdish Panchal** in **Gandhinagar**.
- Gujarat's '**Gharchola**' handicraft has been awarded the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag**, bringing the state's total to **27 GI tags, with 23 for handicrafts**. Traditionally worn in **Hindu and Jain weddings**, Gharchola is recognized for its rich cultural significance and vibrant colors. The craft has evolved with modern designs while maintaining its traditional appeal, and its popularity is growing, with increased availability at **Garvi Gurjari** sales centers in Gujarat.

Haryana

- The **International Gita Mahotsav** celebrates the birth of the **Bhagavad Gita**, marking Lord Krishna's divine discourse to Arjuna on the battlefield of **Kurukshetra** over 5152 years ago. In 2024, the event will run from **November 28 to December 15** and take place in **Kurukshetra, Haryana**, aligning with the **Shukla Paksha Ekadashi** of the **Margashirsha month** in the Hindu lunar calendar.

Himachal Pradesh

- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu announced on 30th October that the **Durgesh Aranya Zoological Park**, located in the Bankhandi area of Kangra's Dehra assembly constituency, will be the first zoo in India to receive certification from the **Indian Green Building Council (IGBC)**.

Karnataka

- Karnataka **Chief Minister Siddaramaiah** announced the creation of three **Global Innovation Districts (GIDs)** in **Bengaluru, Mysuru, and Belagavi** to attract **Global Capability Centres (GCCs)**. The announcement was made at the **27th Bengaluru Tech Summit**, where the CM also unveiled **India's first dedicated GCC policy** to boost innovation. These districts will play a crucial role in fostering **research, development, and emerging industries**, reinforcing Karnataka's position as a global **tech hub**.

Manipur

- Ningol Chakkouba, a major festival of the Meitei community in Manipur, was celebrated with great religious fervor and joy. Observed on the second day of the lunar month Hiyangei in the Meitei calendar, the festival celebrates family bonds and togetherness.
- On November 20, 2024, the **Central Government** appointed **Justice D. Krishnakumar** from the **Madras High Court** as the new **Chief Justice of Manipur High Court**. This follows the retirement of **Justice Siddharth Mridul**. The appointment was made based on recommendations by the **Supreme Court Collegium**, recognizing Justice Krishnakumar's **legal acumen and integrity**.

Madhya Pradesh

- Madhya Pradesh cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, **approved a 35 percent reservation for women in all state government recruitments**. The decision was made during a cabinet meeting held at the Mantralaya in Bhopal.
- In response to cheetahs from Madhya Pradesh straying into neighboring Rajasthan, a joint corridor management committee has been formed between the two states. The committee will focus on cheetah conservation, developing suitable habitats, and facilitating the relocation of cheetahs from Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park (KNP) and Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary.

Nagaland

- **Japan** has been announced as the official partner country for the **25th Hornbill Festival** in **Nagaland**, joining **Wales** as a confirmed partner. This partnership was solidified through meetings between **Nagaland's Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio** and **Japanese Embassy** representatives, including **Takashi Ariyoshi** and **Mayumi Tsubakimoto**. The festival, scheduled from **December 1-10** at **Kisama near Kohima**, will feature Japan's contributions in **cultural performances, capacity building**, and workshops on **handicrafts and bamboo products**, led by renowned **Japanese artists**. The **Hornbill Festival** is Nagaland's premier cultural event, celebrating the state's **heritage, traditions, and diverse ethnic communities**.
- **Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio** inaugurated new facilities at **Naga Heritage Village, Kisama**, ahead of the **25th Hornbill Festival**. The enhancements include the **International Morung** for cultural exchange, a **Lodge/Dormitory** for **cultural troupes**, a **Handloom & Craft Pavilion** showcasing Naga crafts, a **medical booth** with cash vending facilities, a **Tourism Department Lounge** for VIPs, and a **Toyota Ki Display Area**. The event also marked the inclusion of the **USA** as a new partner country.

Odisha

- Odisha achieved a significant milestone with **24 coastal villages** from six districts being officially recognized as '**Tsunami Ready**' by the **Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)** of **UNESCO** during the **2nd Global Tsunami Symposium** in Indonesia on November 11, 2024. The recognition highlights the state's efforts in **disaster preparedness and community resilience** in tsunami-prone areas.
- The **Odisha government** has approved **20 major investment projects** worth **Rs 1.36 lakh crore** across nine sectors, including **steel, chemicals, aluminium, green energy, aviation fuel, apparel, power, and cement**. These projects, approved by the **High-Level Clearance Authority (HLCA)** led by **Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi**, will create over **74,350 jobs** and boost the state's **industrial and infrastructural development**. The initiative strengthens Odisha's position as a key hub for **industrial growth**.





Rajasthan

- **Aandhi, a small village** located about 43 km from Jaipur in Rajasthan, is making strides towards becoming a zero-waste model through the implementation of green technology interventions. This initiative aims to transform various types of waste such as food waste, agricultural waste, wastewater, and hospital waste generated from local sources, including schools, farms, and community health centers, into valuable resources.
- The Supreme Court's new guidelines to eliminate child marriages in Rajasthan by 2030 have empowered civil society organizations. These guidelines emphasize accountability for local panchayats, school authorities, and child protection officers, aiming to tackle the widespread issue of child marriages in the state.

Telangana

- Telangana has launched a statewide caste census conducted by the State Planning Department to gather comprehensive socio-economic, political, and educational data, including caste details for all households. The door-to-door survey collects information on income, employment, health hazards, and welfare benefits, while verifying caste certificates for SC, ST, BC, and EWS categories. Enumerators are assigned 150 households each to ensure thorough data collection.
- The **Telangana government** launched its **Electric Vehicles (EV) Policy** on **November 17, 2024**, to promote **sustainability, energy efficiency**, and reduce **air pollution**. Key features include **100% road tax and registration fee exemptions** for all EVs until **December 31, 2026**. This applies to **two-wheelers, four-wheelers, taxis, auto-rickshaws, and electric buses**. Savings can reach up to **₹15,000** for two-wheelers and **₹3 lakh** for four-wheelers. The policy also removes limits on eligible EVs for tax exemptions.

Tamil Nadu

- At **The Hindu AI Summit 2024**, **Kumar Jayant**, Additional Chief Secretary of Tamil Nadu's **Department of Information Technology and Digital Services**, announced the state's initiative to establish a **Centre of Excellence (CoE)** with an **AI lab**. The initiative aims to foster **research, development**, and support **startups** and **academic institutions**. Tamil Nadu is also integrating **AI** into **governance**, enhancing services in **healthcare, agriculture, and public sector monitoring**, demonstrating its commitment to leveraging AI for **societal benefit and innovation**.
- A **deep depression** over the **Southwest Bay of Bengal** is expected to intensify into **Cyclone Fengal** and make landfall between **Karaikal** and **Mahabalipuram** on **November 30**, bringing **heavy rainfall** and **strong winds** to **Tamil Nadu** and **Puducherry**.

Uttarakhand

- **India's first 'Writer's Village'** was inaugurated in Dehradun by former President Ram Nath Kovind, along with Uttarakhand Governor Lt Gen Gurmeet Singh (retd) and Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama. This unique village aims to foster creativity and provide a nurturing environment for writers from across the country, establishing Dehradun as a new cultural hub for literary talent.
- Uttarakhand, a state rich in culture and tradition, observes a unique festival known as **Igas Bagwal**. This festival, also called **Budhi Diwali** or **Harbodhni Ekadashi**, is celebrated in the mountainous regions with reverence and joy, precisely **11 days after Diwali**.
- Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhama inaugurated the Jauljibi Mela 2024 in Pithoragarh, calling it an "invaluable heritage" that fosters harmony among India, Tibet, Nepal, and neighboring regions. He also launched 18 development projects worth **₹64.47 crores**, focusing on rural and agricultural sectors.
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$200 million loan to improve urban infrastructure and climate resilience in Uttarakhand through the Uttarakhand Livability Improvement Project.
- The Indian government has signed a \$200 million loan agreement with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to enhance urban infrastructure and improve essential services in Uttarakhand. The initiative aims to modernize water supply systems, sanitation, urban mobility, and other key public amenities, thereby fostering sustainable development in the state.

Uttar Pradesh

- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched the state's first double-decker electric bus at the Aakanksha Haat programme in Indira Gandhi Pratishthan. This initiative aims to modernize public transport, ease urban traffic congestion, and promote eco-friendly travel, contributing to environmental conservation.
- The Uttar Pradesh government has introduced a new policy to improve veterinary services by offering diploma and certificate courses in animal husbandry and para-veterinary medicine. This move, announced by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, aims to address the shortage of veterinarians in the state, which has only 8,193 veterinarians compared to the national total of around 34,500.
- The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet has approved a significant semiconductor manufacturing project led by Vama Sundri Investment, a subsidiary of HCL Tech, in partnership with Foxconn. Set to be established along the Yamuna Expressway with an investment of **₹3,706 crore**, the facility aims to enhance India's semiconductor production.





- The **Supreme Court** upheld the **Uttar Pradesh government's decision to acquire land** urgently for the development of the **Yamuna Expressway**. The Court justified the use of **urgency provisions** under **Sections 17(1) and 17(4)** of the **Land Acquisition Act, 1894**, allowing the **Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA)** to proceed without waiting for **objections** from landowners.

November Union Territories:

- Despite the Delhi government's "**Pink Ticket**" scheme enabling free bus travel for women since October 2019, a recent Greenpeace report reveals that **77% of women feel unsafe on buses after dark** due to poor lighting, infrequent schedules, and incidents of harassment, particularly in overcrowded buses.
- During the grand '**Deepotsav 2024**' celebrations, Ayodhya made history by setting two **Guinness World Records** on 30th October evening. In a dazzling spectacle, the Uttar Pradesh Tourism Department, alongside the district administration, illuminated the banks of the Saryu River with over 25 lakh diyas (earthen lamps), creating the world's largest display of oil lamps.
- Delhi Metro launched a new bike taxi service on November 11, 2024, available through the official Delhi Metro app, DMRC Momentum (Delhi Sarthi 2.0). In partnership with First And Last Mile Connectivity India Pvt. Ltd., the service offers a dedicated bike taxi option for women, improving commuter convenience and safety.
- Mahesh Kumar Khichi**, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) candidate, emerged victorious in the Delhi mayoral polls.
- Gyan-Kumbh 2024**, organized by **Siksha Sanskriti Utthan Nyas**, was held at **Pondicherry University** from **November 21st to 23rd, 2024**. The event focused on **transformative educational philosophies, sustainability, and human unity**, with the **Auroville Foundation** showcasing its vision of **human unity and sustainable living**. Auroville's stall attracted educational leaders, and representatives **Dr. Mollika Ganguly** and **Ms. Vishnupriya** engaged visitors with insights into Auroville's innovative educational approach.
- For the first time, **Jammu and Kashmir (J&K)** observed **Constitution Day (Samvidhan Diwas)** on **November 26, 2024**, marking the **75th anniversary** of India's **Constitution**. The event highlighted core values of **justice, equality, and fraternity**, with **Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha** leading the celebrations, emphasizing the region's **integration** into the national framework.
- Amara Raja Infra**, part of the **Amara Raja Group**, has launched **India's first green hydrogen fuelling station** in **Leh, Ladakh** for **NTPC Ltd**. The station, producing **80 kg of green hydrogen daily**, supports **NTPC's green mobility initiatives** under the **National Hydrogen Energy Mission**. Inaugurated by **Union Power Minister Manohar Lal**, it will fuel **hydrogen fuel cell buses** and contribute to the development of **hydrogen infrastructure** in India, marking a key step towards **emission-free transport**.

November Month Launches & Inaugurations:

- The **Railway Protection Force (RPF)** launched the '**Digital Memorial of Valour**' in **New Delhi**, a heartfelt initiative dedicated to honoring the sacrifices of its brave personnel who laid down their lives in the line of duty.
- On the occasion of Dhanvantari Jayanti and the 9th Ayurveda Day, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** **launched, inaugurated, and laid the foundation for healthcare projects valued at over ₹12,850 crore at the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) in New Delhi**.
- Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched the '**Run for Unity**' to commemorate **National Unity Day on Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's birth anniversary**, highlighting Patel's role in India's unification and development.
- Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched the **Civil Registration System (CRS) mobile application**, aimed at integrating technology into governance and simplifying the registration of births and deaths. This initiative aligns with the government's **Digital India vision**, designed to provide citizens with a seamless and efficient way to register vital events at any time, from any location, and in their state's official language.
- Nirmala Sitharaman**, India's Finance Minister, launched the **National MSME Cluster Outreach Programme** in Bengaluru, in collaboration with the Department of Financial Services and SIDBI. The event, attended by key officials, connected around 150 MSME clusters virtually, focusing on improving access to financial services and fostering MSME growth across the country.
- The 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention** will be held from January 8 to January 10, 2025, in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. The official website for the 18th PBD Convention was launched.
- The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) is leading efforts under the Clean Ganga Mission to preserve the river's biodiversity, including endangered species like the Ganga Dolphin. A key initiative is the launch of a **Dolphin Ambulance** to rescue injured dolphins, helping restore the ecological balance of the Ganga and protect its flora and fauna.
- Union Minister Shri JP Nadda launched the "**Scheme for Strengthening the Medical Device Industry**" with a budget of Rs. 500 crore, focusing on making India self-sufficient in medical devices. The scheme supports manufacturing, skill development, clinical studies, infrastructure, and industry promotion, aiming to boost the sector's growth and self-reliance.
- On **October 29, 2024**, during **Dhanvantari Jayanti** and **Ayurveda Day**, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated health projects worth **₹12,850 crore** at the **All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) in New Delhi**. A key highlight was the launch of the **Ayushman Vay Vandana Card**, which offers **free hospital treatment for senior citizens aged 70 and above**. The initiative has already enrolled **10 lakh senior citizens**, marking a significant step in enhancing healthcare access for the elderly in India.





- **Prasar Bharati** launched its own **OTT platform 'Waves'** at the **55th International Film Festival of India (IFFI)**. Offering a mix of **classics** and **contemporary programming**, the platform provides **family-friendly entertainment** in **over 12 languages** across genres like **infotainment, gaming, education, shopping, and live events**. Available on **Android** and **iOS**, **Waves** aims to bridge the **digital divide** and advance the **Digital India** vision, particularly for **rural audiences**.
- India has launched its **first AI Data Bank**, aimed at fostering **innovation** and enhancing **national security**. Announced by **Union Minister Jitendra Singh** at the **7th ASSOCHAM AI Leadership Meet 2024**, the initiative provides **researchers, startups, and developers** with access to **high-quality datasets** to create scalable AI solutions. It supports sectors like **healthcare, space exploration, and national security**, positioning **AI** as a key driver for **economic growth** and **governance**.
- The **Government of India** launched the **National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF)** with a **₹2,481 crore** allocation, approved by the **Union Cabinet** on **November 25, 2024**. The scheme aims to promote **natural farming** for **1 crore farmers** and cover **750,000 hectares** over two years. It integrates past initiatives like **Bhartiya Prakratik Krishi Paddhati** and **Gobardhan Mission** to promote **Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF)** and locally adapted methods.
- **Union Minister for Education, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan**, launched **The TeacherApp**, a digital platform developed by **Bharti Airtel Foundation** to empower educators. The app offers **260+ hours** of digital content, including **courses, videos, podcasts, and live expert sessions**. It aligns with the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** to enhance **pedagogical skills**, foster **creativity**, and improve **classroom engagement**. Key features include **teaching kits** with 900+ hours of content and **interactive webinars**.
- **Union Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan** launched the third edition of the **"Nayi Chetna – Pahal Badlaav Ki"** campaign on **November 25, 2024**, to combat gender-based violence in India. Organized by **DAY-NRLM**, the month-long initiative aims to raise awareness, promote community engagement, and strengthen victim support systems across all states and UTs, running until **December 23, 2024**.
- The **Indian government** has extended the **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)** until **31st March 2028** with a renewed focus under **Atal Innovation Mission 2.0**. Approved by the **Union Cabinet** on **25th November 2024**, the initiative aims to fill gaps in the **innovation ecosystem**, promote **inclusivity**, and improve **entrepreneurial outcomes**, building on its original mission launched in 2016 to foster **innovation** and **entrepreneurship**.
- **Indian Railways** launched the **'Sanraksha' mobile app** to enhance passenger safety by training and building the capacity of railway staff. After a successful pilot in the **Nagpur division**, the app is being rolled out across 16 divisions and will eventually be implemented nationwide. Key features include **data analytics, AI integration, smart learning, and real-time feedback** to improve **frontline safety staff** performance. Developed by **Dilip Singh**, the app aims to create a more secure environment for travelers.

Important Festival

- The **20th edition of Jazzmandu**, also known as the **Kathmandu Jazz Festival**, is set to light up Kathmandu with an electrifying week of jazz, world music, and cultural fusion from **October 24 to October 30, 2024**. Celebrating two decades of rich musical exchange, this year's festival is marked by a star-studded lineup featuring international jazz icons and Nepalese musical talent. Jazzmandu has firmly established itself as one of the premier jazz festivals in South Asia.
- **Karnataka** is celebrating the **Bali Padyami festival** on the fourth day of **Deepavali**, marking the return of the Asura king, **Bali Chakravarty**, from **Pathala Loka** (the underworld) to **Bhuloka** (the earth), as granted by **Lord Vishnu** during his **Vamana Avatar**. The festival holds cultural significance in **Hindu mythology**. **Deepavali** festivities in **Karnataka** include worship of **Ganga Matha** on the first day, **Naraka Chaturdashi** on the second day, and **Lakshmi Pooja** on the third day.
- The **India International Science Festival (IISF) 2024** will be held at **IIT Guwahati** from **November 30 to December 3, 2024**, marking the first time the event is hosted in **North East India**. Organized by the **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** and coordinated by **CSIR-NIIST**, the festival focuses on **science-society engagement** and **interdisciplinary collaboration**. The theme, **"Transforming India into an S&T driven Global Manufacturing Hub,"** aligns with India's vision to integrate **science, technology, and industrial growth** for global leadership.
- The **Ashtalakshmi Mahotsav 2024** will be held at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**, from **December 6th to 8th**, showcasing the cultural and economic potential of **Northeast India**. Organized by the **Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER)**, the event features over **250 artisans** displaying **handicrafts, handlooms, and GI-tagged products**. Key highlights include the **Eri and Muga Silk Gallery**, and technical sessions on topics like **women's leadership, IT, and healthcare**. The festival's mascot, **Purvi**, represents all eight northeastern states.





Miscellaneous National News

116th Episode of 'Mann Ki Baat'

Topic	Details
Why in News	The 116th episode of <i>Mann Ki Baat</i> aired, highlighting inspiring stories, initiatives, and collective efforts across India.
Youth Empowerment and NCC	- Celebrated NCC Day, emphasizing its role in youth development. - Expanded to 20 lakh cadets, with 40% being girls. - PM encouraged youth participation for personality development and nation-building.
'Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue'	- Scheduled for 11-12 January 2024 at Bharat Mandapam, Delhi. - Coincides with Swami Vivekananda's 162nd birth anniversary. - Platform for 2,000 youth leaders to present ideas and inspire political and leadership engagement.
Digital Inclusion	- Changemakers like Virendra (Lucknow) and Mahesh (Bhopal) assisting elderly with Digital Life Certificates and digital payments. - Awareness campaigns against cyber fraud, including "Digital Arrest" scams.
Libraries and Education	- Creative libraries like Prakrith Arivagam (Chennai) and initiatives in Bihar and Hyderabad are inspiring reading habits and aiding exam preparation.
Indian Diaspora and History	- Projects documenting the contributions of the Indian diaspora in Guyana and Oman. - Citizens invited to share stories with #IndianDiasporaStories.
'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' Campaign	- Over 100 crore trees planted in five months. - Highlights include 12 lakh trees planted in Indore in 24 hours and women-led efforts in Rajasthan.
Sparrow Conservation	- Efforts by Kudugal Trust (Chennai) and Early Bird (Mysuru) engaging children in biodiversity conservation and sparrow revival.
Cleanliness and Sustainability	- Swachhata Abhiyan led to decluttering government offices. - Waste-to-wealth examples: Akshara and Prakriti (Mumbai) making fashion items from scraps, and Kanpur's Ploggers Group converting garbage into tree guards.
Key Messages	- Youth are pivotal in shaping a developed India.

Topic	Details
	- Citizens encouraged to engage in conservation, sustainability, digital inclusion, and cultural preservation. - Grassroots creativity celebrated as a tool for transformation.

PAN 2.0

Why in News	Key Points
PAN 2.0 Project Approved	- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the ₹1,435 crore PAN 2.0 Project. - Objective: Digital transformation of PAN/TAN services. - No reapplication required for existing PAN holders. - Introduction of QR codes on PAN cards. - Focus on eco-friendly, paperless systems. - PAN 2.0 aligns with Digital India vision.
Project Features	- Improved security, efficiency, and data consistency. - Free of cost for all taxpayers. - Aims for streamlined taxpayer registration and faster services.
Financial Implications	- Financial outlay: ₹1,435 crore.
Key Benefits	- Faster service delivery and improved quality. - Single source of truth for data. - Cost optimization and eco-friendly processes. - Security enhancement for better agility.
Digital India Vision	- PAN 2.0 as a common business identifier across government systems.
Relevance for Taxpayers	- Over 78 crore PANs issued. - Upgrade will benefit 98% individual PAN holders.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi presented unique, handcrafted artifacts representing different regions of India to leaders of various countries during the recently held BRICS Summit in Kazan, Russia. These gifts, each selected for their cultural significance and historical roots, showcased the country's diverse traditional art forms, including Jharkhand's **Sohrai painting** and Maharashtra's **Mother of Pearl Sea Shell Vase** and **Warli Painting**.
- The Central government is set to commence the long-awaited **census exercise in 2025**, aiming for **completion by 2026**. This census was originally scheduled for 2021 but faced delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Following its completion, the BJP-led government plans to initiate a **delimitation exercise for Lok Sabha seats**, which is expected to be finalized by 2028.





- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of Spain, Mr. Pedro Sanchez**, jointly inaugurated the **Tata Aircraft Complex** for manufacturing **C-295 military transport aircraft** at the Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) campus in Vadodara, Gujarat. This project, a first-of-its-kind private sector **Final Assembly Line (FAL)** for military aircraft in India, marks a significant step forward in India's journey towards indigenous defense production under the **"Make in India, Make for the World"** mission.
- **Four sandstone replicas of the iconic Konark wheel** have been installed at the **Rashtropati Bhavan Cultural Centre and Amrit Udyan**, according to an official statement released. This initiative aims to highlight and promote India's rich cultural heritage, providing visitors with a deeper appreciation of the country's historical artistry and craftsmanship.
- **Union Minister Piyush Goyal**, during his two-day visit to Saudi Arabia, inaugurated the **"One District One Product" (ODOP) Wall** at the Indian Embassy in Riyadh on October 31. This initiative aims to showcase local products from different districts of India on international platforms, promoting them as part of the "Made in India" movement.
- The **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** has announced the signing of an agreement to establish the **BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) Energy Centre** in Bengaluru, Karnataka. The agreement, formalized by MEA Secretary Jaideep Mazumder and BIMSTEC Secretary General Indramani Pandey, aims to enhance energy cooperation among BIMSTEC member states.
- The **Kartarpur Sahib Corridor, connecting India and Pakistan, marks its fifth anniversary** on November 9, 2024. Inaugurated by Prime Minister Modi in 2019, it allows Indian pilgrims to visit the Gurdwara Sri Kartarpur Sahib, where Guru Nanak Dev Ji spent his final years. The corridor is a significant step in religious diplomacy, offering visa-free access to the sacred site.
- Li Quanhai was re-elected president of World Sailing for a new four-year term at the General Assembly in Singapore on November 9, 2024. He secured 55 votes, defeating Rodion Luka (UKR) and Philippe Rogge (BEL), marking a significant achievement as the only Chinese president of an Olympic International Federation.
- **Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud** concluded his tenure as the 50th Chief Justice of India on Sunday, after two years of landmark rulings and reforms. His leadership greatly influenced the Indian judiciary, emphasizing judicial independence, transparency, and accessibility, leaving a lasting legacy.
- **Hindalco Industries Ltd.**, the metals division of the Aditya Birla Group, has been ranked the world's most sustainable aluminium company for the fifth consecutive year in the 2024 S&P Global Corporate Sustainability Assessment. With a score of 87 points, the company improved by 9 points from 2023 and led its closest competitor by 22 points.
- The **5th National EMRS Cultural & Literary Fest and Kala Utsav**, organized by NESTS (National Education Society for Tribal Students), is being held from November 12-15, 2024, in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. The event, hosted by OMTES, celebrates the 150th birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, with the theme "A Tribute to Bhagwan Birsa Munda & Tribal Freedom Fighters," highlighting the rich cultural and historical ties of India's tribal communities.
- In a historic 4-3 decision on November 8, 2024, the Supreme Court overturned its 1967 ruling in the Azeez Basha case, which had denied Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) minority institution status. This landmark judgment allows AMU's minority status to be reassessed in light of its historical, administrative, and founding context, under the protection of Article 30 of the Indian Constitution.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to undertake a **crucial three-nation tour** from November 16-21, which will include attending the **G20 Summit in Brazil**, visiting Nigeria, and concluding with a state visit to Guyana.
- The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** has approved the creation of the Central Industrial Security Force's **(CISF) first-ever all-women battalion**, announced on 12th November, 2024.
- The government approved 12 research projects worth ₹13.3 crore on 12th November, under the **National Technical Textiles Mission**.
- **President Droupadi Murmu** inaugurated the Swami Vivekananda Vidya Mandir school at Zanda Chowk in Silvassa on 13th November.
- The **43rd India International Trade Fair (IITF)** is back at **Pragati Maidan, Delhi, from November 14 to 27**, showcasing India's commitment to **"Vocal for Local, Local to Global"** with products from across the country and the world.
- On November 13, the **Supreme Court of India** issued guidelines to **prevent the demolition of people's homes and private properties by the government solely based on accusations of a crime**.
- PM Modi inaugurate and lay the foundation stone for multiple development projects worth over Rs 6,640 crore in Jamui on the occasion of **Janjatiya Gaurav Divas (Tribal Pride Day)**.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurate the **first-ever Bodoland Mohotsav on 15th November at 6:30 PM** at the **SAI Indira Gandhi Sports Complex in New Delhi**.
- At the inauguration of Symbiosis International University's first international campus in Dubai Knowledge Park, External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar and UAE Minister Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan emphasized the event's importance for strengthening education and bilateral ties between India and the UAE.
- Union Home Minister Amit Shah has approved three major projects totaling Rs. 725.62 crore under the "Expansion and Modernization of Fire Services in the States." The projects, aimed at enhancing fire safety infrastructure, benefit Chhattisgarh (Rs. 147.76 crore), Odisha (Rs. 201.10 crore), and West Bengal (Rs. 376.76 crore).





- **New Delhi** is considering inviting Indonesia's newly elected President, Prabowo Subianto, as the chief guest for Republic Day 2025, highlighting the strengthening ties between India and Indonesia. The potential invitation reflects plans for high-level discussions, enhanced defense cooperation, and the possible participation of the Indonesian military in the Republic Day parade.
- **India has unveiled its updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)** at the 16th UN Biodiversity Conference in Colombia, committing to protect 30% of its terrestrial, inland water, and coastal marine areas by 2030. This goal aligns with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which aims for global protection of 30% of land and ocean areas.
- **India inaugurated its new consulate in Brisbane on November 4, 2024**, with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar leading the ceremony. The opening marks a significant step in enhancing India-Australia relations, which have been strengthened by initiatives like a trade agreement that has opened new opportunities for both nations.
- The **Union Cabinet has approved a ₹10,700 crore equity infusion for the Food Corporation of India (FCI)** to reduce its debt dependency and lower the government's subsidy burden. FCI plays a crucial role in India's food security, handling 70% of food subsidies, procuring grains at Minimum Support Price (MSP), and distributing food to 800 million beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) of 2013.
- **Honorable President Droupadi Murmu** embarked on her first visit to Indian Navy ships at sea aboard the **indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant** on 7th November.
- November 8, Bengaluru marked a milestone with the inauguration of its first digital **population clock** at the **Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC)**. This innovative installation will display real-time population estimates for both Karnataka and the entire country, providing citizens, researchers, and policymakers with up-to-date demographic data.
- In response to the Supreme Court's criticism of the "toothless" penalties under the **Environment Protection Act (EPA) of 1986**, the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change has doubled the fines on stubble burning.
- The Government of India, through the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), has issued a call for proposals (CfP) for setting up **Centers of Excellence (CoE)** under the Research and Development (R&D) Scheme of the National Green Hydrogen Mission. Announced on 4th November 2024.
- **ATMOS 2024**, a three-day technical fest at BITS Pilani's Hyderabad campus, runs from November 8 to 10, featuring a range of innovative activities and competitions like Robot Wars, Drone Racing, and Hackathons. The event offers students an engaging platform to showcase their technical skills and creativity.
- The **United States** has returned over **1,400 looted artifacts** worth **\$10 million** to **India** as part of an ongoing effort to repatriate stolen cultural items from **South and Southeast Asia**. Among the returned items is a **celestial dancer sandstone sculpture**, which had been illegally smuggled from **central India** to **London** and later sold to a patron of the **New York Metropolitan Museum of Art**.
- The **Bharat National Cyber Security Exercise (Bharat NCX 2024)** is a major initiative aimed at enhancing India's **cyber defense capabilities**. Organized by the **National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS)** in collaboration with **Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU)**, the 12-day exercise focuses on equipping professionals with advanced skills in **cyber defense, incident response, and strategic decision-making** to address evolving cybersecurity challenges.
- The small village of **Dhudmaras** in **Chhattisgarh's Bastar district** has been selected by the **United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)** for its **Best Tourism Village Upgrade programme**. This initiative aims to promote **sustainable tourism, enhance local tourism infrastructure, preserve cultural heritage, and improve the quality of life** for residents.
- During his visit to **Nigeria**, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** presented **President Bola Ahmed Tinubu** with a **Silfar Panchamrit Kalash**, showcasing **Kolhapur's traditional metal craftsmanship**. The **silver kalash** features intricate **engraving, including floral motifs, deities, and traditional patterns**, symbolizing India's rich **cultural heritage**. This diplomatic gesture strengthens **India-Nigeria ties** and highlights India's commitment to **cultural exchange with Africa**.
- India's first **Constitution Museum**, inaugurated by **Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla** on **November 23, 2024**, at **O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonipat**, celebrates **75 years** of the Indian Constitution and honors its architects.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated **India's first modern self-sufficient gaushala** in **Laltipara, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh**. Named **Adarsh Gaushala**, it features a cutting-edge **Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) plant**, symbolizing a significant step toward **sustainable development and green energy**. This initiative aligns with Modi's vision of **"Waste to Wealth"**, showcasing how organic waste can be converted into valuable resources.
- **NITI Aayog** has recommended adding **coking coal** to India's **critical minerals list**, highlighting its significance in **steel production and infrastructure development**. This move aligns with global trends, such as the **European Union's** classification of coking coal as a critical material. India's heavy dependence on imports (85% of coking coal) calls for enhanced domestic production. The report, **"Enhancing Domestic Coking Coal Availability to Reduce the Import of Coking Coal,"** advocates for policy changes to utilize India's **16.5 billion tonnes of medium coking coal reserves** and achieve **self-reliance** while meeting **Net Zero** goals by **2070**.

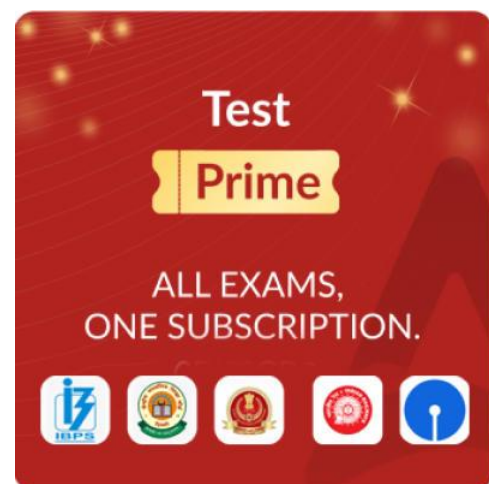




- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** participated in the **Odisha Parba 2024** celebrations held at **Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi** from **November 22-24**, organized by the **Odia Samaj**. The event highlighted **Odisha's vibrant cultural, social, and political heritage**. In his address, the Prime Minister celebrated **Odisha's legacy**, historical contributions, and promising future.
- The **Union Cabinet**, led by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, approved the **One Nation One Subscription (ONOS)** scheme, allocating **₹6,000 crore** for **2025-2027**. The initiative aims to provide **seamless access** to scholarly articles for **1.8 crore students, faculty, and researchers** across **6,300 government-managed institutions**. This aligns with **India's ViksitBharat@2047 vision, NEP 2020, and the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)**. Access will be managed digitally via the **INFLIBNET platform** under the **UGC**.
- The Ministry of Tourism promotes **India's tourism potential** globally, with specific initiatives to boost tourism in **states like Himachal Pradesh**. It utilizes various **platforms and strategies** to enhance India's visibility as a top tourist destination.
- On **26th November 2024**, **President Droupadi Murmu** unveiled the **Sanskrit and Maithili translations of the Indian Constitution** in New Delhi, marking **Samvidhan Diwas** and the **75th anniversary** of its adoption. The event celebrated India's **linguistic diversity** and reaffirmed the Constitution's importance as the nation's guiding framework.
- The **13th National Seed Congress (NSC) 2024**, inaugurated virtually by **Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan** on **November 28**, is being held at the **International Rice Research Institute South Asia Regional Centre (ISARC)** in **Varanasi**. The three-day event brings together over **700 delegates** to discuss **innovation, collaboration, and strategies** to enhance the **Indian and global seed sectors**.
- The **Ministry of Tourism** has approved **40 projects** worth over **Rs 3,295 crore** to promote sustainable tourism and reduce overcrowding at popular sites. These projects, spanning **23 states**, aim to transform lesser-known destinations into iconic tourist spots. The projects were selected from **87 proposals** received under the **Special Assistance to States/Union Territories for Capital Investment (SASCI)** guidelines and will be funded through **long-term interest-free loans**. This initiative focuses on enhancing **tourism infrastructure** and stimulating local economies.
- The **Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** has received **28 proposals** from **23 states** for developing new cities, in line with the **central government's initiative** to address urban expansion. This follows a **commitment made in February 2021** to create eight new cities, with an allocated **Rs 8,000 crore** for their development. Each city will receive **Rs 1,000 crore**, and the proposals are under review by an expert committee to ensure quality and adherence to **15th Finance Commission** guidelines.
- The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** revealed that **Telangana, Karnataka, and Maharashtra** have reported the highest number of **cybercrime cases** in the past three years, with **Telangana** leading. Between 2020-2022, **Telangana** recorded **30,596 cases**, **Karnataka 31,433**, and **Maharashtra 19,307**. To tackle this, the **Central Government** has introduced a **13-pronged strategy** to strengthen **cybercrime detection**, investigation, and prosecution.
- India has been **re-elected** to the **United Nations Peacebuilding Commission (PBC)** for the **2025-2026 term**, emphasizing its continued commitment to **global peace and stability**. This re-election highlights India's role as a **founding member** and major **contributor** to UN **peacekeeping** efforts, reaffirming its ongoing engagement with the PBC since its establishment in **2005**.
- The **Supreme Court Collegium**, led by **Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sanjiv Khanna**, has proposed the elevation of **Delhi High Court Chief Justice Manmohan** to the Supreme Court. This recommendation comes as the court operates with **32 judges**, two short of its sanctioned strength of **34**, following the retirements of Justices **DY Chandrachud** and **Hima Kohli**. The decision was finalized by a five-member Collegium, including Justices **BR Gavai, Surya Kant, Hrishikesh Roy, and AS Oka**.

National Current Affairs of October 2024

- As the Assembly election approaches, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on September 29, 2024**, virtually inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for various projects worth **₹11,200 crore** in Maharashtra. This event comes after his scheduled visit to Pune on September 26 was cancelled due to heavy rain in the city.
- India has officially signed the **Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ)** Agreement, known as the **High Seas Treaty**, which aims to promote the conservation of marine genetic resources and ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits. **External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar** highlighted the significance of the treaty in a post on X, stating that it represents a crucial step towards maintaining the health and resilience of oceans.





- **BharatGen was inaugurated in New Delhi**, marking a significant step in India's commitment to generative AI. The initiative aims to enhance public service delivery and citizen engagement by developing foundational models in language, speech, and computer vision. **Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State for various portfolios**, emphasized BharatGen's role in positioning India as a global leader in generative AI, similar to the transformative impact of UPI.
- Marking the completion of **10 years** of the launch of one of the most significant mass movements for cleanliness - the **Swachh Bharat Mission**, the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi today participated in Swachh Bharat Diwas 2024 program on the occasion of **155th Gandhi Jayanti on 2nd October in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi**. Shri Modi launched and laid the foundation stone for several sanitation and cleanliness projects worth over Rs 9600 crore including projects under AMRUT and AMRUT 2.0, National Mission for Clean Ganga and GOBARdhan Scheme. The theme for Swachhata Hi Seva 2024 is '**Swabhav Swachhata, Sanskaar Swachhata**'.
- In a significant diplomatic gesture, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** announced on Tuesday that the road in front of the **Jamaica High Commission** in New Delhi has been officially named '**Jamaica Marg**'. This announcement came during a joint press conference with **Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness**, highlighting the deepening ties between the two nations.
- In a significant move, the **Union Cabinet approved** the conferral of classical language status to **Marathi, Bengali, Assamese, Pali, and Prakrit on October 3, 2024**. This decision, following long-pending demands, highlights India's rich linguistic heritage and aims to preserve and promote these ancient languages.
- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved a **₹2,028.57 crore Productivity Linked Bonus (PLB)** for **11.72 lakh railway employees**, recognizing their exceptional performance in the 2023-24 financial year. Each eligible employee will receive a **maximum bonus of ₹17,951**, typically disbursed ahead of the Durga Puja and Dussehra holidays. This initiative aims to motivate staff across various categories, including track maintainers, loco pilots, and station masters, by incentivizing continuous improvements in operational efficiency and service delivery.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated GAIL (India) Limited's Compressed Bio Gas (CBG) plant in Ranchi, Jharkhand, via virtual mode during a ceremony at **Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi**, marking **Swachh Bharat Diwas 2024**. This facility, with a feedstock processing capacity of 150 Tonnes Per Day (TPD) and a production capacity of 5 Tonnes Per Day (TPD), represents an investment of ₹26 crore and aims to convert the organic fraction of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) into renewable energy.
- **Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi** virtually inaugurated the '**Lal Tipara Gaushala**' with **Bio-CNG plant** in Gwalior and launched various development projects of Rs 685 crore in Madhya Pradesh on the occasion of Swachhata Diwas. Swachhata Diwas is observed on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti (October 2) every year.
- The government has established **13,822 Jan Aushadhi Kendras** across the country under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) till 30th September of 2024. These Kendras have also **achieved record sales of 200 Crore rupees** in the last month, which is the highest monthly sales in the history of the PMBJP.
- In a major step towards sustainability, Union Minister of State for Coal and Mines, **Shri Satish Chandra Dubey** remotely inaugurated 51 rooftop solar power plants of **Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL)** under **Special Campaign 4.0 from Ranchi**. These solar plants, with a cumulative capacity of 2.428 MW, highlight BCCL's focus on reducing carbon emissions while utilizing unused building spaces.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **Banjara Virasat Museum in Pohardevi, Washim, Maharashtra**, celebrating the rich cultural heritage of the Banjara community. The museum, a four-story structure, houses 13 galleries showcasing the legacy of the Banjara community and its leaders. Modi also paid floral tributes to Sant Sevalal Maharaj and Sant Ramrao Maharaj, spiritual icons of the community, and performed rituals at the Jagdamba Temple. He is set to launch agricultural and animal husbandry **initiatives worth ₹23,300 crore**.
- India has recently signed a **Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT)** with the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** aimed at enhancing investor confidence and fostering stronger economic ties. One of the key changes in this agreement is the reduction of the arbitration period for foreign investors from five years to three years. This new provision allows investors to seek international arbitration if disputes are unresolved by the Indian judicial system within the stipulated timeframe. The BIT, effective from August 31, 2024, also extends protections to shares and bonds, broadening the scope of investments covered compared to the previous agreement.
- In a significant move to preserve and showcase India's rich maritime heritage, the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the development of the **National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC)** at **Lothal, Gujarat**. The project will unfold in two phases, and it aligns with the government's broader vision to highlight the country's ancient maritime prowess, which dates back over 4,500 years.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **Indian Institute of Skills (IIS) in Mumbai**, aiming to enhance youth employability and create an industry-ready workforce for **Industry 4.0**. The IIS, **built on a 4-acre campus** at the **National Skill Training Institute**, focuses on cutting-edge technologies like factory automation, AI, data analytics, and additive manufacturing.





- The government, led by Labour and Employment Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, has announced the establishment of **10 new ESIC medical colleges** and the extension of the unemployment allowance scheme under the **Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojna until June 2026**. These decisions align with the **Prime Minister's Independence Day (2024)** promise to add 75,000 medical seats in the next five years.
- **India's textiles sector** is set for significant expansion, with an **11% year-on-year** growth in Ready-Made Garments (RMG) of all Textiles exports, as per India's trade data of August 2024, signaling a bright future. The Textiles sector in the country is expected to grow to **USD 350 billion by 2030**, driven by India's inherent strengths and a strong policy framework that encourages investment and exports.
- India has officially launched its **'Study in India' campaign** at the **20th International Education Show in Sharjah**, aiming to attract international students to its universities. The initiative, organized by EdCIL under the Ministry of Education, is a significant step in positioning India as a global education hub. The India Pavilion was inaugurated by **Ahmed Mohamed Obaid Al Naboodah** from the Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Yatin Patil, Deputy Consul General of India in Dubai.
- **The Central Government** has officially **revoked President's Rule** in Jammu and Kashmir, paving the way for the appointment of a new Chief Minister. In a notification issued by President Droupadi Murmu, the revocation was enacted under the powers granted by the **Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019**, and relevant constitutional provisions.
- India has surged to **become the second-biggest supplier of restricted critical technologies** to Russia, US and European officials said, highlighting the challenge in efforts to choke off exports fueling President Vladimir Putin's war machine.
- India has become the **second-largest supplier of restricted technologies, such as microchips, circuits, and machine tools, to Russia, following China**.
- The **Supreme Court of India's Lady Justice statue** has undergone a significant transformation under **Chief Justice DY Chandrachud's** guidance, symbolizing a shift in judicial philosophy. Unlike the traditional portrayal with a blindfold, the new statue has open eyes, representing an Indian judiciary that is aware, conscious, and empathetic, rather than blindly impartial. The sword, a longstanding symbol of authority and punishment, has been replaced by the Indian Constitution, underscoring that justice in India is rooted in constitutional values rather than retribution. However, the scales are retained, maintaining the emphasis on fairness and balanced judgment, reflecting the judiciary's commitment to weigh all perspectives in each decision.
- In a significant ruling, the **Supreme Court on October 17** upheld the constitutional validity of **Section 6A of the Citizenship Act, 1955**, with a 4-1 majority, affirming the Assam Accord. The bench, led by **Chief Justice DY Chandrachud**, deemed the provision constitutional, recognizing its role in addressing illegal immigration from Bangladesh into Assam.
- Assam Accord and Section 6A: **Section 6A, introduced in 1985** following the Assam Accord, grants citizenship to those who entered Assam before January 1, 1966, and allows others who arrived by March 24, 1971, to register after a 10-year waiting period. Those who entered after this cut-off are subject to detection and deportation.
- In a significant policy shift, the Indian Railways has announced a reduction in the **Advance Reservation Period (ARP)** for long-distance train bookings from **120 days to 60 days**, effective November 1, 2024. This decision aims to enhance passenger convenience by reducing the blocking of funds for ticket bookings made months in advance, especially during peak travel seasons like festivals.
- In a significant move to tackle the rising tide of online scams and cyber frauds, the Secretary of Information and Broadcasting, Sh. Sanjay Jaju, delivered the keynote address at the launch of the **"Scam se Bacho" campaign in New Delhi**. This initiative, **developed by Meta in collaboration with key government ministries**.
- On Saturday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the **'Karmayogi Saptah' National Learning Week (NLW)** aimed at enhancing the individual and organizational capacity of civil servants. This initiative, **part of the broader 'Mission Karmayogi' launched in September 2020**, seeks to foster a future-ready civil service that embodies Indian values while maintaining a global outlook.

National Current Affairs of September 2024

- **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)**, a key player in driving financial inclusion across India, proudly marked its **7th Foundation Day on September 2, 2024**. Since its nationwide launch in 2018 by Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi**, the IPPB has been instrumental in transforming India's financial landscape by providing accessible, affordable, and trusted digital banking services to underserved and unbanked families at their doorstep.
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed the **Economic Times World Leaders Forum in New Delhi**, where he highlighted India's economic growth, governance, and global ambitions.





- Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a commemorative postage stamp celebrating **75 years of the Supreme Court of India** during the inaugural session of the **District Judges Conference at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi**. The event was attended by **Supreme Court Chief Justice Dr. D.Y. Chandrachud, Minister of Law & Justice Arjun Ram Mehwal**, and other dignitaries.
- The **7th Rashtriya Poshan Maah** was launched today at **Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar, Gujarat**, marking a significant step towards enhancing nutrition awareness and well-being across the nation. The event featured prominent figures such as **Union Minister Smt. Annpurna Devi, Chief Minister of Gujarat Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel**, and **Gujarat's Minister of Women and Child Development Smt. Bhanuben Babariya**, alongside senior officials from both the Government of India and the State Government of Gujarat.
- In a significant event marking the evolution of India's judiciary, **President Droupadi Murmu** unveiled the **new flag and insignia of the Supreme Court of India during the two-day National Conference of District Judiciary held in New Delhi**. The ceremony, attended by members of the judiciary from across the nation, symbolized the rich cultural and legal heritage of India, encapsulated in the newly designed symbols of the highest court.
- In a historic move that underscores India's commitment to becoming a global hub for semiconductor manufacturing, the **Union Cabinet**, chaired by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, approved the proposal of **Kaynes Semicon Pvt Ltd** to establish a semiconductor manufacturing unit in Sanand, Gujarat. The meeting, held in New Delhi on 2 September 2024, marks a significant milestone in India's Semiconductor Mission, which was launched in 2022 to boost the country's semiconductor capabilities.
- Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has given its approval to seven comprehensive schemes. These initiatives, with a total outlay of **Rs 14,235.30 Crore**, aim to revolutionize various aspects of agriculture in India.
- Under the **National One Health Mission (NOHM)**, a comprehensive mock drill named "**Vishanu Yuddh Abhyas**" (**Virus War Exercise**) was held in **Ajmer district, Rajasthan**, from August 27 to August 31, 2024. This exercise aimed to assess the pandemic preparedness of the **National Joint Outbreak Response Team (NJORT)**, which includes experts from human health, animal husbandry, and wildlife sectors. The drill simulated a zoonotic disease outbreak to evaluate the readiness and response of the teams involved.
- **President Droupadi Murmu** has approved the formation of the **23rd Law Commission of India for a three-year term**, effective from 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2027. This commission will consist of a full-time chairperson, four members, and additional ex-officio and part-time members. Its primary mandate is to review and recommend legal reforms to enhance the Indian legal system.
- The **Vishvasya-Blockchain Technology Stack** was launched by the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** to provide **Blockchain-as-a-Service (BaaS)** with a geographically distributed infrastructure. This initiative aims to support permissioned blockchain applications and promote transparent, secure, and trusted digital service delivery in India.
- On September 3, 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi embarked on a significant diplomatic journey by arriving in **Bandar Seri Begawan**, the capital of Brunei. This visit marks a historic milestone as it is the first time an Indian Prime Minister has visited Brunei since the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two nations on May 10, 1984. The visit is part of a broader two-nation tour that includes Singapore, spanning from September 3 to 5, 2024.
- The Ministry of **Women and Child Development** has been honored with the **National Award for e-Governance 2024 (Gold)** for its digital initiative, **Poshan Tracker**. This tool, **part of Mission Poshan 2.0**, enables real-time monitoring of children's growth, focusing on those **aged 0-6 years.** ()
- India is setting ambitious goals to significantly increase its presence in the global alcoholic beverage market, targeting exports worth **US\$ 952.9 million (Rs. 8,000 crore)** in the coming years. As part of the '**Make in India**' initiative, the government, supported by the **Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)**, seeks to elevate India from its current **40th position** in global alcoholic beverage exports. The aim is to achieve **US\$ 1 billion** in export revenue.
- Union Minister of Textiles, **Shri Giriraj Singh**, unveiled the '**VisioNxt Fashion Forecasting Initiative**' developed by the **National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT)**. This launch event, which also saw the introduction of a bilingual web portal and the India-specific Fashion Trend Book '**Paridhi 24x25**', marks a pivotal moment in India's fashion and textile sector.
- In celebration of the birth anniversary of **Hockey Legend Major Dhyan Chand** and in alignment with the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports' **National Sports Day 2024**, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting organized "**Khel Utsav 2024**" from **August 27 to August 30, 2024**. The event took place at **Major Dhyan Chand Stadium and Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi**.
- **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya**, India's Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports, announced India's bid for the 2030 Youth Olympics during his speech at the of the **Olympic Council of Asia (OCA)44th General Assembly** on September 8, 2024. India will compete against Peru, Colombia, Mexico, Thailand, Mongolia, Russia, Ukraine, and Bosnia and Herzegovina for hosting rights. This bid is seen as a precursor to India's ambition to host the 2036 Olympics.
- The Ministry of Steel organized the event called "Greening steel : Pathway to Sustainability" on 10th September in New Delhi. In this event members from different ministries, academia, think tank, field specialists have participated to discuss the agenda of the meeting.





- In a momentous event at **Nirvachan Sadan**, the **Election Commission of India (ECI)** celebrated the achievements of two remarkable Paralympic archers while simultaneously enlisting their support to inspire voters across the nation. **Ms. Sheetal Devi** and **Shri Rakesh Kumar**, fresh from their bronze medal victory in Archery at the **Paris Summer Paralympics 2024**, were honored for their sporting prowess and appointed as **national icons** for **Persons with Disabilities (PwDs)**.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi commemorated the **132nd anniversary of Swami Vivekananda's** landmark speech at the **World's Parliament of Religions in Chicago**, delivered in **1893**. Modi highlighted that Vivekananda's address introduced India's timeless message of **unity, peace, and brotherhood** to the global audience. He praised the enduring impact of Vivekananda's words, noting their continued inspiration across generations.
- In a significant development for India's ornamental fisheries sector, Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, **Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh Alias Lalan Singh**, unveiled the **"Rangeen Machhli"** mobile application. The launch event took place at the prestigious **ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIFA)** in **Bhubaneswar**, marking a new era in the dissemination of knowledge and resources for ornamental fish enthusiasts and professionals alike.
- India has been announced as the exclusive partner for the **European Hydrogen Week**, set to take place in November 2024. This announcement was made on the second day of the **International Conference on Green Hydrogen (ICGH-2024)**, held at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**. The partnership underscores India's commitment to aligning with EU green regulations to enhance its export potential in the green hydrogen sector.
- On September 11, 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the **2nd International Conference on Green Hydrogen**, which is being held at **Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi from September 11-13, 2024**. The conference aims to position India as a leader in the global green hydrogen ecosystem by discussing recent technological advances and fostering strategic investments and partnerships to accelerate green hydrogen adoption.
- **Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal**, launched the **'Jan Sunwai portal'**, which is an **online platform of the Department of commerce**, designed to streamline communication between **stakeholders and authorities**.
- **Union Home Minister of India Shri. Amit Shah** inaugurated 2 days National Security Strategies Conference 2024 in the capital of India at **New Delhi**. This conference will hold talks on various aspects of security and its challenges.
- **Union Minister Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia**, Hon'ble Minister for Communications and Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), has officially launched the website for the **Ashtalakshmi Mahotsav**. The launch, held at **Sanchar Bhawan in New Delhi**, highlights the government's dedication to showcasing Northeast India's cultural and economic richness on both national and international platforms.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi introduced a newborn calf, 'Deepjyoti'**, born at his official residence at **Lok Kalyan Marg, New Delhi**. Sharing a video on X, PM Modi revealed that the calf, with a unique light-like mark on its forehead, inspired the name **'Deepjyoti', which translates to 'light of the lamp'**.
- The Honorable Vice President of India Shri. Jagdeep Dhankhar has inaugurated the **"Constitutional Temple – Samvidhan Mandir"** at 433 Industrial Training Institutes across Maharashtra. This programme was organized by the **Maharashtra Skill, Employment, Entrepreneurship, and Innovation Department**.
- The **GST Council** has constituted a **13-member Group of Ministers (GoM)** to review and suggest GST rates on health and life insurance premiums. The report is due by **October 30, 2024**, and **Bihar Deputy CM Samrat Choudhary leads the group**. The decision was made during the **54th GST Council meeting on September 9, 2024**. A final decision will be made in November based on the GoM's recommendations.
- **Typhoon Yagi** recently struck Southeast Asia, the government of India has launched **Operation Sadbhavana**, a humanitarian initiative aimed at providing crucial assistance to affected countries. This operation exemplifies India's commitment to its **Act East Policy** and its role as a **first responder** in providing **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)** to nations in need.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated **India's first Namoo Bharat Rapid Rail on September 16, 2024**, which will operate between **Ahmedabad and Bhuj**. Known as the Vande Metro, this new train covers a **360-kilometre distance in 5 hours and 45 minutes**, making stops at nine stations along the route.
- **Cambodia's Angkor Wat** has been recognized as the **most photogenic UNESCO World Heritage site in Asia** by Times Travel, as announced by **Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet on September 15**. This accolade was revealed through a post on his official Telegram channel, featuring Times of India's list of Asia's top ten most photogenic UNESCO sites.
- The **Union Cabinet** has approved several key proposals with a total outlay **exceeding ₹60,000 crore**, covering areas from agriculture to space exploration. The much-anticipated **'One Nation, One Poll'** policy, enabling simultaneous elections





across India, also received approval. Additionally, the **PM-AASHA scheme** was revamped with a **₹35,000 crore budget** to ensure Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for farmers. The Cabinet also sanctioned a ₹24,474.53 crore subsidy on phosphatic and potassic (P&K) fertilizers for the 2024-25 rabi season.

- The Union Cabinet has approved the **Biotechnology Research Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development (Bio-RIDE)** scheme to boost biotechnology research, innovation, and entrepreneurship with an outlay of **₹9,197 crore for the 15th Finance Commission period (2021-22 to 2025-26)**.
- The **Central government** has allocated **Rs 12,554 crore** to various states this year for relief and rehabilitation of those affected by natural disasters. This includes funding from multiple disaster relief and mitigation funds.
- The **union cabinet chaired by the Honorable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** has approved the **building of the first unit of the Bharatiya Anatriksh Station (BAS)** by extending the scope of Gaganyaan program.
- The **Indian government** has mandated that platform aggregators onboard themselves and their **gig workers onto the e-Shram portal**, an initiative aimed at providing unorganised labour with access to various social security schemes. This step is crucial to ensure workers' access to social welfare benefits and to maintain an accurate registry of beneficiaries.
- **President Droupadi Murmu** attended the Safai Mitra Sammelan in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh. The Safai Mitra Sammelan was organized as part of the **fortnightly Swachhata Hi Seva—2024 campaign** launched by the government of India.
- **Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports and Labour & Employment, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya** inaugurated the **Second Edition of the Inclusion Conclave** organized by **National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA)**, India in New Delhi. **Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs & Sports, Ms. Raksha Nikhil Khadse** was also present on the occasion.
- The Union Cabinet approved the establishment of the **National Centre of Excellence (NCoE)** for Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics, and Extended Reality (AVGC-XR) on September 18, 2024. Designed to mirror the IITs and IIMs, this initiative aims to bolster India's position as a global content hub, enhancing the country's soft power and attracting foreign investments in the media and entertainment sector. The centre will be located in Mumbai as a Section 8 Company under the Companies Act, 2013.
- The **nuclear power reactor that achieved criticality** is the first of a new series of Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) to be built at **Rajasthan Atomic Power Project in Rawatbhata**.

- The **Union Ministry for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupendra Yadav**, led the country in this year's **Clean the Beach Campaign** on the occasion of the **International Coastal Clean-up Day on 21 September 2024**. The minister participated in an event to clean the beach at Juhu in Mumbai.
- **Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal** inaugurated **Invest India's new office in Singapore**. The office will serve as a **dedicated point of contact for companies from the region looking to invest in India**, fostering collaboration across sectors.
- The foundation stone for India's first of its kind **CO2-to-Methanol pilot plant** with an overall capacity of **1.4 Tons Per Day (TPD)** was unveiled virtually by **Prof. Abhay Karandikar, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India**, at Thermax Limited premises in **Pune, Maharashtra**.
- Under a transformative collaboration with the **United States, India is set to launch its inaugural national security semiconductor fabrication plant**, designed to produce chips for military applications and critical telecommunications.
- In a **significant move to safeguard India's critical power infrastructure**, **Union minister Manohar Lal** inaugurated the **Computer Security Incident Response Team Power (CSIRT-Power) at Northern Regional Power Committee in New Delhi**.
- **President Droupadi Murmu** inaugurate the **16th Assembly of the Asian Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (ASOSAI)** on September 24, 2024, in New Delhi. This significant event marks the beginning of crucial discussions centered on the evolving role of Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) in promoting transparency and accountability.
- **Central Silk Board (CSB)** marked a significant milestone with the celebration of its **Platinum Jubilee** in Mysuru. The event, commemorating 75 years of dedicated service to India's silk industry, was graced by numerous dignitaries and witnessed several important launches and releases.
- **Union Minister of Textiles, Shri Giriraj Singh**, alongside **Union Minister of State for External Affairs & Textiles, Pabitra Margherita**, launched the India-specific fashion trend book **"Paridhi 24x25,"** a bilingual web portal of **VisioNxt**, and an **AI Taxonomy e-book**.
- The **7th Rashtriya Poshan Maah**, celebrated across India in 2024, marks a significant milestone in the country's ongoing battle against malnutrition. This monthlong campaign, an integral part of India's mission to eradicate nutritional deficiencies, has brought renewed energy and focus to the national discourse on health and nutrition.
- **Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar** stressed the importance of producing substantial results in research and development (R&D), underscoring that **contributions must go beyond mere cosmetic efforts**. Addressing the **83rd CSIR Foundation Day** celebrations in New Delhi.





- **Minister of Communications, Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia** visited **Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) Bengaluru Campus** and inaugurated the **5G O-RAN (Open Radio Access Network) Testing lab**.
- India has been elected to the fifteen-member steering committee of the Global Operational Network of **Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (GlobE Network)** during a plenary session in Beijing, as announced by the **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** on September 26, 2024. This election follows a multi-stage voting process and underscores India's commitment to addressing international corruption and financial crime.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually launched **three PARAM Rudra supercomputers** on September 26, 2024, emphasizing the importance of technological advancements for empowering the underprivileged. Developed indigenously under the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) at a **cost of ₹130 crore each**, these high-performance computing systems are strategically deployed in Pune, Delhi, and Kolkata. With a total investment of ₹850 crore in the project, these supercomputers aim to facilitate pioneering scientific research across various disciplines.

National Current Affairs of August 2024

- "VIRAASAT", a fortnight long exhibition dedicated to celebrating **10th National Handloom Day** began at **Handloom Haat in Janpath** on 3rd August, 2024.
- **President Droupadi Murmu** embarked on a **six-day visit** to Fiji, New Zealand, and Timor-Leste, marking significant diplomatic engagements. She was conferred the Grand Collar of the Order of Timor-Leste, the country's highest civilian award. President Ramos-Horta also hosted a State Banquet in honour of President Murmu at Palacio Nobre De Lohane. She was also conferred the Companion of the Order of Fiji, the country's highest civilian award.
- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has launched the **e-Sankhyiki portal on June 29**, marking a significant advancement in data management and dissemination in India.
- Indian President **Droupadi Murmu** embarked on a significant two-day state visit to Fiji, marking a milestone in the diplomatic relations between the two nations.
- On the fifth anniversary of the abrogation of **Articles 370 and 35(A)**, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** highlighted the decision as a pivotal moment in Indian history, marking the beginning of a new era of progress and prosperity for **Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) and Ladakh**.
- The Government of India has successfully completed and operationalized **four major projects** under the **Namami Gange Mission 2.0** in the first quarter of **fiscal year 2024-25**.
- The government has reversed its controversial decision to remove indexation benefits for long-term capital gains (LTCG) tax on property sales.
- **Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV)** has started its **first executive training program** for the aviation sector at the **Asian Institute of Transport Development (AITD)** at Dwaraka, New Delhi.
- The Government of **India and the World Bank** have joined forces to construct the **Green National Highway Corridor Project (GNHCP)**.
- The **National Commission for Women (NCW)** has inaugurated the **Digital Shakti Center in New Delhi** to address the rising cybercrimes against women.
- Prime Minister Narendra **Modi-led government** is all set to table the **Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024**, in the **Lok Sabha** on August 8. The new bill that proposes to **amend the Waqf Act, 1995** will be introduced in the Lok Sabha by **Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju**.
- India's renewable energy capacity has surged by 165% over the past decade, increasing from **76.38 GW in 2014 to 203.1 GW in 2024**, according to **Union Minister Pralhad Joshi**.
- The **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting** has prepared the draft Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill, 2024 which will replace the **Television Network Act of 1995**.
- The nation prepares to celebrate its **78th Independence Day**. This day marks the **historic moment in 1947** when India achieved freedom from **British colonial rule** after a prolonged struggle.
- The **West Bengal government and UNICEF** have teamed up to encourage fathers to play an active role in **promoting breastfeeding among new mothers**.
- The third edition of the '**Har Ghar Tiranga**' campaign, aimed at fostering patriotism and national pride by encouraging citizens to display the national flag at their homes, will **run from August 9 to August 15**.
- The **Union Ministry of Railways** is set to fast-track the deployment of the latest version of its indigenous anti-collision system, **Kavach 4.0**, with plans to issue tenders for installation in **20,000 locomotives this year**.
- The **Indian Cost Accounts Service (ICoAS)** celebrated its **Foundation Day in New Delhi** with the theme '**ICoAS @ Viksit Bharat**'.
- The **Union Cabinet** on August 9, approved **eight new railway projects** at an **estimated cost of ₹24,657 crore** to provide connectivity, facilitate ease of **travelling, minimise logistics cost, reduce oil imports and lower carbon dioxide emissions**.
- In response to the volatile situation in Bangladesh, the Indian government has established a committee to monitor the **Indo-Bangladesh border** and ensure the safety of Indian nationals and minority communities in the neighboring country.





- **Kasturi Cotton Bharat** programme of Ministry of Textiles is a pioneering effort in traceability, certification and branding of Indian cotton. The details of **Kasturi Cotton Bharat program** and implementation of block chain technology for traceability.
- **BIMSTEC members** should re-examine the priorities of member nations with regards to trade negotiations so that the delayed Free Trade Agreement can be finalized.
- **Punjab, Telangana, Kerala, and West Bengal** have yet to implement the **Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009**. Union Minister of State for Education, Jayant Chowdhary, disclosed this in the Rajya Sabha.
- The Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engineering & Research (SAMEER), an R&D institute under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), has signed a **Transfer of Technology (ToT)** agreement with **Toshniwal Hyvac Pvt. Ltd.** and **Sir Automation Industries**.
- **Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal** has announced the restoration of the Diamond Imprest Licence, a move aimed at revitalizing **India's gems and jewellery sector**.
- Indian Railways and the National Capital Region Transport Corporation (**NCRTC**) have partnered to promote the '**One India-One Ticket**' initiative, aiming to streamline travel for passengers using both **mainline railway services and Namoo Bharat trains**.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** on 15th August, stressed on the **need to bring a 'Secular Civil Code'** instead of using the term '**Universal Civil Code**', hinting at the government's intention to broad-base the policy and avoid friction on the contentious issue, both within the ruling NDA and outside.
- The government is set to launch '**Kisan Ki Baat**', a **monthly radio programme** aimed at bringing scientific knowledge to farmers, Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced on August 15.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will serve as the **chief guest at the inaugural ET World Leaders Forum**, scheduled for August 31 in New Delhi.
- The **Union Government** on August 15, launched the **AI-based National Pest Surveillance System (NPSS)** that will help farmers to connect with agriculture scientists and experts on controlling pests using their phone.
- India has initiated an **anti-dumping investigation** into the **import of hot rolled flat products** from **Vietnam** following complaints that these products are being sold at significantly low prices, negatively impacting the domestic steel industry.
- The **Lok Sabha speaker** on August 17, named the constituents of the **six new Parliamentary Committees** including the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) which examines government expenditure.
- India has reduced the windfall tax on **petroleum crude oil to Rs 2,100 per metric tonne**, effective August 17, down from **Rs 4,600 per tonne**.
- The **Union Cabinet** has greenlit significant airport infrastructure projects in **West Bengal and Bihar**, with a total investment of **approximately ₹2,962 crore**.
- **Nepal** will export nearly **1,000 MW** of electricity to **India**, External Affairs Minister **S Jaishankar** said after meeting his Nepalese counterpart **Arzu Rana Deuba** in New Delhi on August 19.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) has designated **Mpox as a public health emergency of international concern**, primarily due to its increasing **prevalence in Africa**.
- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** on August 18, released the centenary commemorative coin of **Dr. Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi** in Chennai.
- To provide end to end support for promotion of handloom sector and welfare of handloom workers, Ministry of Textiles is implementing the **National Handloom Development Programme** and **Raw Material Supply Scheme** across the country.
- India's first Constitution Museum, named "**The Constitution Academy and The Rights & Freedoms Museum**," is set to be inaugurated by **OP Jindal Global University** on November 26, 2024.
- The **Union Minister of Power and Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs**, Shri Manohar Lal, on August 20, launched Portal for Online monitoring of Projects Thermal (**PROMPT**) in **New Delhi**.
- The Union Ministry of Power launched three new online platforms—**PROMPT, DRIPS, and JAL VIDYUT DPR**—to enhance efficiency, transparency, and effectiveness in the power sector.
- **India overtook China** as the **world's biggest importer of Russian oil** in July as Chinese refiners bought less because of lower profit margins from producing fuels, a comparison of import data showed.
- The Health Ministry has formed a **14-member National Task Force (NTF)** to address the safety and working conditions of medical professionals in India.
- Information and Broadcasting Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw** launched '**Create in India Challenge-Season One**' in New Delhi on August 22 in the run-up to the **World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit**.
- **India's** space efforts received a significant boost with the successful launch of **RHUMI-1**, the world's first mobile hybrid rocket.
- On India's inaugural **National Space Day**, the nation witnessed a significant educational milestone with the release of '**Sapno ki Udaan**', an innovative e-magazine.





- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** distributed **certificates to 11 lakh new Lakhpati Didis** in a function organised at **Jalgaon in Maharashtra**.
- The **Ministry of Home Affairs** has decided to create **five new districts in the union territory of Ladakh**, said home minister **Amit Shah** on August 26.
- The **Union Government** has introduced **new 2024 guidelines** aimed at improving the handling of public grievances, focusing on citizen empowerment and streamlining the redressal process.
- Union **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** inaugurated the new **GST Bhawan in Udaipur**, located in the **Hiran Magri area**.
- The **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)**, India has announced the results of its **online human rights photography competition – 2024** organized in **collaboration with MyGov**.
- **Teghbir Singh**, a five-year-old boy from Ropar, Punjab, has etched his name in the annals of mountaineering history. Teghbir has become the **youngest Asian** to successfully scale **Mount Kilimanjaro**, Africa's highest peak, standing at an impressive **5,895 meters** above sea level.
- **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** earlier on August 28, chaired the meeting of the **44th edition of PRAGATI**, the ICT-based multi-modal platform for Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation, involving Centre and State governments.
- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** is set to commission **India's second nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN)**, INS Arighat (S-3), at a quiet event in Visakhapatnam, marking a significant boost to India's nuclear deterrence and second-strike capability. This submarine, armed with **750-km range K-15 nuclear ballistic missiles**, will patrol the Indo-Pacific under India's strategic command.
- **Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant** awarded **Indian citizenship to Joseph Francis Pereira**, a 78-year-old Pakistani Christian, under the **Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA)**. This marks the first instance of a Goan receiving citizenship through this amendment.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has given the green light to 12 new project proposals under the **National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP)**.
- **On National Sports Day in New Delhi**, Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya**, launched the **"Retired Sportsperson Empowerment Training" (RESET) Programme**.
- August 30, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will visit **Maharashtra to lay the foundation stone of the Vadhan Port project** and **address the Global Fintech Fest (GFF) 2024** in Mumbai.

- The **Indian Army** has launched the **first phase of Project NAMAN**, aimed at providing dedicated support and services to **Defence pensioners, veterans, and their families**.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will flag off three new **Vande Bharat trains** around 12:30 pm on August 31. "These new Vande Bharat trains shall provide the people of the region the **world-class** means to travel with speed and comfort and will cater to **three states – Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka**."

National Current Affairs of July 2024

- Air India is establishing **South Asia's largest flight training school** in **Maharashtra's Amravati** district with an investment of **over ₹200 crore**. Scheduled to open in the first quarter of the next financial year, this initiative aims to secure a steady pipeline of pilots for the airline, which will require 500-700 pilots annually to support its expansion plans following a mega order of 470 Airbus and Boeing aircraft in 2023.
- **Union Minister of Mines, G. Kishan Reddy**, along with Minister of State Satish Chandra Dubey, inaugurated the **District Mineral Foundation (DMF) Gallery at Shastri Bhawan in New Delhi** on Tuesday, 2nd July 2024. The gallery showcases products from Self-Help Groups (SHGs) formed under the Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana and those supported by mining companies under their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives.
- The **Government of India** announced a significant extension to one of its flagship urban development initiatives. The **Smart Cities Mission**, originally set to conclude on June 30, 2024, will now continue until **March 31, 2025**. This extension marks a crucial phase in India's journey towards creating technologically advanced and livable urban spaces.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** hosted the **T20 World Cup-winning Indian cricket team** for breakfast on June 4. The team led by skipper **Rohit Sharma** arrived in Delhi in the early morning from **Bridgetown in Barbados**, where it was stranded for five days owing to a Category-4 hurricane.
- **President Droupadi Murmu** presided over the Defence Investiture Ceremony-2024 (Phase-I) at Rashtrapati Bhavan, presenting Gallantry Awards to distinguished servicemen and women.
- In a significant move to boost entrepreneurship, **Union Minister Piyush Goyal** has announced an **80% reduction** in licensing fees for **women entrepreneurs** and a **50% reduction for MSMEs** under the **Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO)**. This initiative aims to encourage greater participation from women and MSMEs in the petroleum and explosives sectors, balancing industry compliance with public safety.





- India is gearing up to host the prestigious **Malabar naval exercise** alongside the United States, Japan, and Australia in the **Bay of Bengal this October**. This comes amidst escalating regional tensions fueled by China's assertive actions in the South China Sea and its expanding footprint across the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**. The **28th edition of the exercise** will focus on advanced **anti-submarine warfare** and aims to enhance military interoperability among the four countries.
- The **Government of India** has mandated that all stainless **steel and aluminium utensils** conform to the **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)**. According to a press release by the **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution**, this directive, **effective from March 14, 2024**, under the Quality Control Order issued by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, makes the ISI mark compulsory for these utensils.
- India, represented by a high-level delegation led by **Shri T.K. Ramachandaran, Secretary of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways**, has taken a prominent role in shaping international maritime policies at the **132nd session of the Council of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in London**. The session, which began on July 8, 2024, and continues until July 12, 2024, addresses critical issues and proposals for the future of global maritime operations.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **INS Towers** at the Indian Newspaper Society (INS) Secretariat in Mumbai's Bandra Kurla Complex. This new facility is set to serve as a modern hub for the newspaper industry in Mumbai, addressing the evolving needs of INS members.
- The Centre has strengthened the authority of the **Lieutenant Governor (LG) of Jammu and Kashmir** through amendments to the **Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019**. The amended rules, effective immediately upon publication in the Official Gazette, significantly enhance the LG's powers, particularly in matters related to transfers, postings of all-India service officers, police, and judicial appointments.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has achieved a significant milestone on **social media platform X, surpassing 100 million followers**. This milestone solidifies his position as the **most followed global leader on X**, far ahead of other world figures such as **US President Joe Biden, Dubai ruler Sheikh Mohammed, and Pope Francis**.
- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, **Shri Amit Shah** on July 14, inaugurated the **Pradhan Mantri Colleges of Excellence** in all 55 districts of the state from **Indore, Madhya Pradesh**. Many dignitaries, including the **Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Dr. Mohan Yadav** and Union Minister **Smt. Savitri Thakur** were present on the occasion.
- India is set to launch its **first national toll-free anti-narcotics helpline, '1933'**, alongside an email service under the name **MANAS (Madak Padarth Nisedh Asuchna Kendra)**. Scheduled for launch by **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** during the seventh Narco-Coordination Centre meeting on July 18, the helpline aims to provide a user-friendly platform for citizens to report **drug-related crimes and seek assistance 24x7**.
- The **Indian government** has released the first tranche of **USD 2.5 million** to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) as part of its **annual contribution of USD 5 million** for the year **2024-25**. The **UNRWA**, which has carried out direct relief and works **programmes for registered Palestinian refugees** since **1950**, is making efforts to keep up its functioning in the middle of the **Israel-Hamas war in Gaza**.
- India has announced a **fresh list of 346 military hardware** items that will only be procured from state-run domestic manufacturers after a ban on their import kicks in under a staggered timeline. This is part of a broader initiative to boost domestic defence industries and reduce import dependence.
- **Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh** recently inaugurated Asia's inaugural health research-related **"Pre-clinical Network Facility"** at Faridabad's **Translational Health Science & Technology Institute (THSTI)**. This facility, selected by the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), is notable as **Asia's first and the 9th globally** to handle BSL3 pathogens.
- The **Ministry of Education** and the **University Grants Commission (UGC)** unveiled an ambitious project aimed at enriching the landscape of Indian language literature in higher education. This groundbreaking initiative, known as **ASMITA (Augmenting Study Materials in Indian Languages through Translation and Academic Writing)**, sets out to develop an impressive 22,000 books in Indian languages over the next five years.





- In a significant move to bolster India's international relations, **External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar** embarked on a two-day visit to Mauritius on July 16 and 17, 2024. This visit marked a crucial step in reinforcing the strong bonds between India and Mauritius, two nations with deep historical and cultural ties.
- India has successfully completed its **4th periodic review** by the **Human Rights Committee** under the **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) in Geneva**, showcasing its commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights.
- The **Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA)**, launched in September 2023 by key G20 members including India, the United States, and Brazil, is poised to take a significant step forward in its institutional development. The Indian government is preparing to sign a headquarters agreement with the alliance, marking a crucial milestone in the organization's evolution and India's role in global sustainable energy initiatives.
- The theme of the **India Mobile Congress 2024, 'The Future is Now'**, was unveiled on July 19 by **Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia**, Minister for Communications and Development of North Eastern Region on July 18. The theme signifies how India stands at the heart of the technological evolution and **IMC 2024** bringing together global leaders, **visionaries, pioneers**, and innovators to collaborate and actively shape the technologies transforming our world today, where the future isn't just a concept, it's happening.
- The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** organised an event on **18th July 2024**, named **"Utkrishtata ki Ore Badhte Kadam"**. Celebrating Achievements, Inspiring Excellence to felicitate best performers under **PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Yojana** and **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM)**.
- The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC), a **Mini-Ratna PSU** under the Ministry of Railways, has achieved a notable milestone by advancing to the **Scheduled 'A' category** of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs). This upgrade from **'Schedule B'** was announced by the Ministry of Railways in an office memorandum dated July 19, 2024.
- **Three training institutes of DoT**– National Telecommunications Institute for Policy Research, Innovation and Training (**NTIPRIT**), the National Institute of Communication Finance (**NICF**) and Wireless Monitoring Training & Development Centre (**WMTDC**) have been merged into a **single administrative entity**, named **'National Communications Academy' (NCA)** with immediate effect. The Minister of Communications (MoC) approved the merger of these entities on the recommendation of the **Committee for Organisational Reforms**.
- India's National Flag Day commemorates the adoption of the Indian national flag on July 22, 1947, by the Constituent Assembly, just days before the country attained Independence from British rule on August 15, 1947.
- **The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) at NITI Aayog** and the **World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)** on July 22, joined hands towards building **joint innovation programmes in the Global South**.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced India's contribution of **one million dollars** to the **UNESCO World Heritage Centre** to support heritage conservation globally, particularly in the Global South.
- The Department of School Education and Literacy is observing **Shiksha Saptah from July 22 to July 28, 2024**, to celebrate the fourth anniversary of the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**.
- The Indian Railways has been allocated a record **capital expenditure (Capex) of Rs 2,62,200 crore** for the fiscal year 2024-25, maintaining the same level as announced in the **Interim Budget 2024**.
- In the Regular Union Budget for FY 2024-25, the **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** has received an allocation of **Rs 6,21,940.85 crore (approximately US \$75 billion)**, marking the highest allocation among all ministries.
- **Forest Survey of India (FSI)**, Dehradun, an organization under the Ministry carries out the assessment of forest cover biennially.
- **Shri H.D. Kumaraswamy**, Union Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries, launched **SIMS 2.0**, the upgraded Steel Import Monitoring System.
- **President Droupadi Murmu** has renamed two important halls in **Rashtrapati Bhavan**, formerly known as **'Durbar Hall' and 'Ashok Hall'**, to **'Ganatantra Mandap' and 'Ashok Mandap'** respectively.
- **India's installed nuclear power capacity** is set to increase from 8,180 MW to 22,480 MW by 2031-32, according to Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh.
- **Mankind Pharma** has entered into a definitive agreement to acquire a 100 per cent stake in **Bharat Serums and Vaccines (BSV)** from Advent International.
- **India** has taken over the Chair of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) for the year 2024-25, succeeding China.
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will chair the 9th Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog on July 27, 2024, at the **Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre, New Delhi**.
- The Government has approved setting up of 7 (Seven) PM Mega Integrated Textile Region. Apparel (**PM MITRA) Parks** in Greenfield/Brownfield sites (including a Greenfield project in Virudhanagar Tamil Nadu) with world class infrastructure including plug and play facility with an outlay of Rs. 4,445 cr for a period of seven years upto 2027-28.
- To fulfill Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of disaster resilient India, Ministry of Home Affairs under the guidance of Home Minister, Shri Amit Shah has taken several initiatives to ensure effective management of disasters in the country.





National Current Affairs of June 2024

- The Centre has introduced a new numbering series, **160xxxxxx**, for making service or transactional calls. This move aims to help citizens easily identify legitimate calls and curb unsolicited voice calls from telemarketers using 10-digit mobile numbers.
- India created a world record with **64.2 crore voters**, including **31.2 crore women**, participating in the **Lok Sabha Election 2024**. Chief Election commissioner **Rajiv Kumar** said that the number is 1.5 times of the voters of all **G7 countries – US, UK, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and Canada**.
- **Om Birla**, the incumbent **Lok Sabha Speaker**, has achieved a remarkable feat by winning the **Kota parliamentary seat on June 4, 2024**. With a resounding margin of **41,139 votes**, Birla has become the first **presiding officer in 20 years** to be re-elected to the **Lower House of Parliament**.
- The **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) Chairman, HRI Sanjay Kumar Agarwal**, officially launched the **GST Bhawan**, the official complex of the **Central Board of Indirect Tax (CGST) Rohtak Commissionerate, in Rohtak, Haryana**. At the inaugural ceremony were **Shri Shashank Priya, Member of CBIC (GST, Legal, CX & ST)**, together with officers and staff from the **CGST Rohtak Commissionerate, Panchkula Zone**, and senior CBIC officers.
- **NOTA** created a **record with 2.18 lakh voters in Madhya Pradesh's Indore** opting for the **'none of the above'** option in the Lok Sabha elections, counting for which is underway on Tuesday. Of the total voters, **14.01 per cent opted for 'None of the Above', introduced in 2013** following a Supreme Court order.
- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (**UNESCO**) South Asia Regional Office, in collaboration with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (**MeitY**), Government of India, organized the **National Stakeholder Workshop on Safe, Trusted, and Ethical AI at the Taj Palace Hotel, New Delhi**. This event, following the approval of the IndiaAI Mission by the Government of India, marks a significant step towards enhancing India's AI ecosystem, with a substantial allocation exceeding Rs 10,000 crore.
- Two environmentalists, **Jai Dhar Gupta and Vijay Dhasmana** created **India's first biosphere in a tiger reserve**, called the **Rajaji Raghathi Biosphere (RRB)** within the **Rajaji National Park in Uttarakhand**.
- The **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)** has issued a notice to four states- **Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Gujarat**. This notice follows a **2020 case** in which a father sold his daughter for **2.5 lakhs** and later filed a complaint with the commission upon discovering her dead body.
- **Rajya Sabha Chairperson and Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar** inaugurated the **'Purna Sthal' (Inspiration Site)** within the Parliament House Complex. This newly constructed site houses statues of **national icons and freedom fighters** that were previously scattered across different locations on the premises.
- **India** is set to join an elite group of nations with the launch of its ambitious **Deep Sea Mission**, making it the **sixth country** to embark on such a groundbreaking endeavor. Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Earth Sciences, PMO, Atomic Energy, Space, Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions, expressed pride and happiness over the progress of this mission during a recent meeting in New Delhi. It has approved economic measures totaling over **₹2.88-lakh crore**, including an MSP hike for 14 Kharif crops, the **expansion of Varanasi airport**, and the establishment of a new major port at Vadhavan. These decisions, announced in the first Cabinet meeting after the allocation of portfolios to Union Ministers in the Modi government's third term, aim to bolster various sectors and drive economic growth.
- As a precursor to the 3rd edition of **World Food India**, Union Minister of Food Processing Industries, **Shri Chirag Paswan** and Union Minister of State for Food Processing Industries and Railways, **Shri Ravneet Singh**, launched the **website and mobile application for World Food India 2024**.
- The **Union Cabinet**, chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, has approved the **Viability Gap Funding (VGF) scheme** for the implementation of **offshore wind energy projects** in India. This decision marks a significant step towards harnessing the vast offshore wind energy potential within the **country's exclusive economic zone**. The total financial outlay for this scheme is **₹7,453 crore**.
- The Union Cabinet, under the leadership of Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi**, has sanctioned the Central Sector Scheme titled **"National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme (NFIES)"** with a comprehensive financial allocation of **Rs. 2254.43 crore spanning from 2024-25 to 2028-29**. This initiative, spearheaded by the Ministry of Home Affairs, aims to bolster India's forensic capabilities through strategic investments in infrastructure and manpower.
- In a significant boost to the **India's port development programme**, as many as **9 ports of India** made it to the **Global Top 100** in the latest edition of **Container Port Performance Index (CPPI), 2023**. This report is prepared by the **World Bank and S&P Global Marketing Intelligence**. The Union Minister of **Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal** gave credit to the ambitious **Sagarmala programme**, envisioned by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, for modernisation of the ports and improving their efficiency.





- To realise the vision of saturating **National Highways with green cover**, NHA will undertake a unique initiative to plant **Miyawaki plantation** on land parcels adjacent to National Highways at various locations. Total land area of over **53 acres** has been identified at different places in and around **Delhi-NCR** to establish the Miyawaki plantations.
- The Indian government has approved the construction of a new major port at **Vadhavan in the Dahanu taluka of Palghar district, Maharashtra**. This project, aligned with the PM Gatishakti programme, aims to boost India's foreign trade capabilities and local economy. The **Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, sanctioned this on June 19, 2024.
- The Union Cabinet chaired by **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** approved the proposal of **Airports Authority of India (AAI)** for development of **Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport, Varanasi with an outlay of Rs 2,870 crore**. It includes Construction of New Terminal Building, Apron Extension, Runway Extension, Parallel Taxi Track & Allied works.
- In a bid to enhance road safety, the **National Highways Authority of India (NHA)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) Delhi**, a technical university established by the **Government of National Capital Territory (NCT)**. This collaboration aims to leverage Artificial Intelligence (AI) to improve the availability and condition of road signs on National Highways, covering approximately 25,000 kilometers.
- In a significant development, **Bhartruhari Mahtab**, a **seven-term Lok Sabha member**, has been appointed as the **pro tem Speaker** of the Lower House. The announcement was made by Parliamentary Affairs Minister **Kiren Rijiju** on June 20.
- The government monetised assets worth **₹1.56 lakh crore under the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP)** in the financial year **2023-24**, falling short of the target of ₹1.8 lakh crore. This performance represents approximately **159% of the achievement in 2021-22**. The NMP aims to unlock the value of brownfield infrastructure assets, with a total monetisation potential estimated at ₹6 lakh crore over a four-year period from FY22 to FY25.
- The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued an advisory circular titled **'Gender Equality in the Civil Aviation Sector'** aimed at increasing **women's representation in aviation to 25% by 2025**. This initiative aligns with the gender equality principles enshrined in the Indian Constitution and the **International Civil Aviation Organisation's (ICAO)** vision for equal opportunities in aviation.
- **Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah** inaugurated the **'Fast Track Immigration – Trusted Traveller Programme'** at **Terminal-3 of Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi** June 22. Union Home Secretary and several other dignitaries were present on the occasion.
- **In Ladakh**, as a tribute to the **heroes of the Kargil War**, the Indian Army has opened the **Khalubar War Memorial** to tourists. This opening ceremony was part of the 'Forever in Operations' Division's Pre-Kargil Vijay Diwas celebrations as this year, the country will celebrate the **25th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas** on 26 July. Located in the renowned **Aryan Valley** this memorial commemorates the bravery and sacrifices of soldiers who fought to reclaim the valley during the war.
- **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president** and Union Minister **Jagat Prakash Nadda** has been named **Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha**. Mr. Nadda replaces Union Minister **Piyush Goyal**, who recently won the Lok Sabha election and took oath on June 24, as a member of the Lower House of Parliament.
- On a momentous day for Indian democracy, **Om Birla** was re-elected as the **Speaker of the 18th Lok Sabha**. This event marks an important milestone in India's parliamentary history and reminds us of the strength of our democratic institutions.
- In a pioneering move, the Ministry of Coal has initiated India's inaugural pilot project for underground **coal gasification in Jharkhand**. Located at the **Kasta coal block in Jamtara District**, this innovative venture by Eastern Coalfields Limited aims to transform the coal industry.
- The **Bharat Centre of Olympic Research and Education (BCORE)** was inaugurated on June 23, at the **Rashtriya Raksha University in Gujarat's Gandhinagar district**. Speaking at the inauguration event, **Indian Olympic Association president** and legendary sprinter **PT Usha** said the centre will serve as a hub of **knowledge, innovation and performance** in the Indian sports ecosystem.
- **Central Civil Services (Leave) Rules, 1972**, commissioning mothers opting for surrogacy will now be entitled to **180 days of maternity leave**. This revision extends childcare leave to commissioning mothers with fewer than two surviving children, marking a departure from the **previous 50-year-old regulation**. Commissioning fathers are also granted 15 days of paternity leave under the amended rules.
- The **Director General** of Railway Protection Force (**RPF**) **Manoj Yadava today** launched the **Sangyaan App, designed by the RPF Tech Team** to provide in-depth information on three new Criminal Acts: the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) 2023, and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA) 2023.
- The **Government of India** has made a **whopping contribution of USD 1,169,746** for **'Hindi @ UN'** project to expand the use of Hindi in the **United Nations**. The Government of India has been making continuous efforts to expand the use of Hindi in the United Nations.





- The **Central Railway** has installed a **floating solar plant** of **10 MWp** capacity in the **Igatpuri lake** located in the Western Ghats, a first-of-its-kind initiative by the Indian Railways. Central Railway has always played an active role in opting for clean & renewable energy for its traction requirements and has taken various bold and revolutionary steps to fulfil the same.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** took the oath of office for an unprecedented **third straight term** as the head of a **coalition government**. The swearing-in ceremony witnessed the induction of several leaders from the **National Democratic Alliance (NDA)** partners, reflecting the BJP's commitment to rewarding its allies.
- In a strategic move to counter China's growing influence in the region, India sets its sights on managing the **Mongla Port in Bangladesh**. Following the successes of **Chabahar in Iran and Sittwe in Myanmar**, India aims to further strengthen its commercial and security interests by expanding its overseas port operations.
- **India** on June 10, wholeheartedly welcomed **Egypt, Iran, UAE, Saudi Arabia and Ethiopia** joining the **BRICS** as their representatives attended for the first time a key meeting of the grouping **hosted by Russia**. Senior diplomat **Dammu Ravi** led the Indian delegation at the BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting in **Nizhny Novgorod**, in western Russia.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** on June 10, signed the release of the **17th instalment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN Nidhi) scheme**. The move will benefit more than 93 million farmers by disbursing **more than Rs 20,000 crore**. 16th Installment of **PM KISAN** scheme was released on **28th February 2024**.
- **The National Commission for Indian Medical Systems** organized a two-day National Conference, '**PRANA**' Protecting Rights and Novelties in ASUS (Mind to Market for

Indian System of Medicines [ISM] Professionals) in Collaboration with **All India Council for Technical Education** and **Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell** to mark its fourth foundation.

- **Indian universities and higher education institutions (HEIs)** will now be allowed to offer **admissions twice a year** on lines of foreign universities. The two admission cycles- followed globally also- will be **July-August** and **January-February** from the **2024-25 academic session**.
- **National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB)** has launched a **Mobile App "NCRB Sankalan of Criminal Laws"** to serve as a comprehensive guide providing complete information about the new criminal laws at one place. The New criminal laws will come into force from the **1st of next month (July)**.
- **Jammu & Kashmir** on June 12, broadened its existing **Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) with New Zealand** into a full-fledged strategic agreement. The partnership taps into New Zealand's globally recognized strengths in breeding technology, sustainable farm management and advanced disease control measures within the **sheep sector**.
- **India** is the **world's second largest source of nitrous oxide (N2O)**, a greenhouse gas that heats up the atmosphere far more than carbon dioxide. Nearly **11%** of such global man-made emissions in 2020 were from India, topped only by **China at 16%**. The major source of these emissions **comes from fertiliser usage**, according to a global assessment of N2O emissions published in the journal **Earth System Science Data** on June 12.
- Thousands of **Kashmiri Pandits** converged at the **Kheer Bhawani temple** in Kashmir Valley's Ganderbal district to attend the annual **festival of Zyestha Ashtami** on June 14. Many of them had migrated to different parts of the country in the **1990s** in the wake of raging militancy.
- **Srinagar** has become the **fourth Indian city** to be recognised as a '**World Craft City**' by the World Craft Council (WCC). Three years after it was designated as part of the **UNESCO Creative City Network (UCCN)** for crafts and folk arts.

International Current Affairs

International Current Affairs of December 2024

- **Donald Trump**, the **US President-elect**, has appointed **Kash Patel** as the next **FBI Director**, succeeding **Christopher Wray**. Patel, a **Trump loyalist** known for his criticism of the "**deep state**" and federal agencies, has a history of strong support for Trump's policies.
- **Donald Trump** has threatened to impose **100% tariffs** on **BRICS** countries, including **India**, if they reduce reliance on the **US dollar** in international trade. This threat follows discussions at the **BRICS Summit** in October about **de-dollarisation**, posing challenges to India's **export sectors** like **pharmaceuticals, textiles, and IT services**.

- **Aleppo**, Syria's second-largest city, has fallen from **government control** for the first time since the conflict began, following a surprise offensive by **Islamist rebel groups** supported by **Hayat Tahrir al-Sham** and allies. This marks a key turning point, as Aleppo was **recaptured** by government forces in **2016**.
- **Oxford Word of the Year 2024** is '**brain rot**', reflecting concerns about the negative impact of excessive **low-quality online content**, especially on **social media**. Selected through a global vote and expert analysis, the term highlights the growing debate around digital consumption. Originally coined in **1854** by **Henry David Thoreau**, it has gained new relevance, particularly among **Gen Z** and **Gen Alpha** on platforms like **TikTok**.





- **Justice Murdu Nirupa Bindushini Fernando** was sworn in as the **48th Chief Justice of Sri Lanka** on **December 2, 2024**, marking a historic moment as the **second woman** to hold the position, after **Justice Shirani Bandaranaike**. She was appointed following the retirement of **Chief Justice Jayantha Jayasuriya**.
- China has opened its first **atmospheric monitoring station** in **Antarctica**, located in **Larsmann Hills, East Antarctica**. The **Zhongshan National Atmospheric Background Station** will provide continuous data on **climate change** and human impact, enhancing China's role in **Antarctic research** as part of its goals as a **polar power**.
- **Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah**, Namibia's first female president, made history with her election at age 72, winning over **57% of the vote**. A key political figure, she rose from **activism** against South African occupation to leadership in post-independence Namibia. Her victory highlights the power of **perseverance, activism**, and a commitment to **economic and social progress**.
- After over **five decades** of unbroken rule, the **Assad family's reign** in **Syria** ended as **rebel forces**, led by **Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS)**, breached **Damascus**, forcing **President Bashar al-Assad** to flee. This marks the end of the **Alawite dynasty**, which began in **1970** when **Hafez al-Assad** took control.
- **John Dramani Mahama**, Ghana's former president, made a historic return to power by defeating the ruling **New Patriotic Party (NPP)** in the presidential election. This marks his **third attempt** after previous defeats in **2016** and **2020**. The victory reflects voter frustration with **NPP's handling of the economic crisis** under **President Nana Akufo-Addo** and is seen as a significant **political shift** in Ghana, known for its **democratic stability**.
- Burkina Faso's **ruling military junta** appointed **Rimtalba Jean Emmanuel Ouedraogo** as the new **prime minister** after dissolving the national government. Ouedraogo, a former **communications minister** and government spokesperson, was appointed by junta leader **Ibrahim Traore** via decree and announced on **state television**. The country continues to face significant **security challenges** and **political instability** under military rule.
- Dubai unveiled the **world's largest gold bar** on December 7-8, 2024, weighing **300.12 kg** and valued at **\$25 million (₹211 crore)**. Displayed at the **Dubai Gold Souk Extension**, the bar sets a new **Guinness World Record** and symbolizes Dubai's commitment to excellence in the **precious metals industry**.
- Merriam-Webster has chosen "**polarization**" as the **2024 Word of the Year**, reflecting the **deep societal, cultural, and political divides** of the year. The word was selected based on a rise in searches and usage. Other top words include **demure, fortnight, totality, and resonate**.
- India's **billionaire count** has risen to **185** in 2024, a **20% increase** from 2023, ranking **third globally** after the **US** and **China**. The growth is fueled by **family-led businesses** across sectors like **pharma, fintech, and edtech**. In contrast, China's billionaire numbers dropped from **520** to **427** due to **economic slowdowns** and **regulatory changes**. The report forecasts continued growth for India, following a trajectory similar to China's pre-2020 pattern.
- **Mohammed al-Bashir** has been appointed as **Syria's caretaker prime minister** following the fall of **President Bashar al-Assad**. Al-Bashir, former head of the **Syrian Salvation Government (SSG)**, will lead the **transitional government** until **March 1, 2025**, after the 12-day offensive that ended Assad's rule.
- **President Droupadi Murmu** awarded **Nepal's Army Chief, General Ashok Raj Sigdel**, the honorary rank of '**General of the Indian Army**' at **Rashtrapati Bhavan**. This reflects the longstanding military ties and mutual respect between **India** and **Nepal**, dating back to 1950. The ceremony highlights both nations' commitment to **strengthening defense collaboration** and fostering **friendly relations**.
- The **Supreme Court of Bangladesh** stayed a **High Court** verdict that declared '**Joy Bangla**' as the national slogan. Popularized by **Sheikh Mujibur Rahman** during the **Bangladesh liberation movement**, the slogan had been recognized by the previous government led by **Sheikh Hasina**. The decision reflects ongoing **political shifts** and **changes in government policy**, emphasizing the complexities of **national identity** and **governance** in Bangladesh.
- **Time** magazine has named **Donald Trump** as its **Person of the Year** for 2024, marking his second win. This recognition highlights his **political influence, historic comeback** after defeating **Vice President Kamala Harris** in the November 5 election, and his role in reshaping the **American presidency**.
- **Elon Musk**, CEO of **Tesla** and **SpaceX**, has made history by surpassing a net worth of **\$400 billion**, according to the **Bloomberg Billionaires Index**. This achievement reflects his success in ventures like **Tesla, SpaceX, and xAI**, driven by insider share sales, stock performance, and political connections, cementing his status as the **richest person** in the world.
- French President **Emmanuel Macron** has appointed **François Bayrou** as the new **Prime Minister** amidst growing political instability. Bayrou, a centrist ally of Macron, faces challenges in navigating a divided parliament, particularly in passing the **2025 budget bill**. His appointment follows the ousting of **Michel Barnier's minority government** after a vote of no-confidence, adding to the country's **political instability, rising borrowing costs, and a European leadership vacuum**.





- Switzerland has decided to suspend the **'Most Favoured Nation' (MFN)** clause in its **tax treaty** with **India**, potentially raising taxes on **Indian companies** operating in Switzerland. Following a **2023 Indian Supreme Court ruling** that altered the interpretation of the MFN clause, Switzerland will impose a **10% withholding tax** on dividends paid to Indian companies starting **January 1, 2025**, up from the previous 5%.
- The unexpected victory of **far-right, pro-Russian candidate Călin Georgescu** in Romania's presidential race has raised concerns in **Brussels** about potential shifts that could destabilize the **EU** and **NATO**. With Romania leaning towards **ultranationalism** and Moscow's influence growing in **Eastern Europe**, fears are rising of Romania adopting **anti-Western policies**. This could impact **EU unity** and complicate consensus-building within the alliance.
- The **Bloomberg list of the world's richest families** for 2024 highlights significant wealth disparities, with the **Walton family** (Walmart) leading at **\$432.4 billion**, surpassing **Elon Musk**. Other notable families include the **Al Nahyan** (UAE), **Al Thani** (Qatar), and **Hermès** (France). **Indian families** like the **Ambanis** and **Mistrys** are also in the top 25, reflecting the rising influence of **Indian billionaires** globally. The list underscores the growing concentration of wealth among a few elite families.
- Lahore has once again claimed the title of the most polluted city globally, with the **Air Quality Index (AQI)** soaring to alarming levels. Recently recorded at a staggering 708, the PM2.5 levels reached an unprecedented **431 µg/m³**, significantly exceeding the World Health Organization's recommended **annual limit by 86 times**.
- Canada has reported its first presumptive human case of H5 bird flu in British Columbia, where a teenager tested positive for the H5 influenza virus. Health authorities called it a rare event, highlighting the country's ongoing efforts to monitor and manage avian diseases.
- The Government of Canada has officially terminated its Student Direct Stream (SDS) program, which was popular among Indian students for its expedited study permit processing. Effective immediately, students from India and 13 other countries who previously used the SDS will now have to apply through the standard study permit system.
- Tayyab Ikram has been re-elected as President of the International Hockey Federation (FIH) for a second consecutive term. At the 49th FIH Congress in Muscat, Oman, he won with 79 votes out of 126, defeating competitor Marc Coudron of Belgium, who received 47 votes. This marks a significant achievement for Pakistan's hockey.
- In a major political shift, Mauritius' opposition is on track for victory in the recent legislative elections, with Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth conceding defeat on November 11th. Opposition leader Dr. Navin Ramgoolam is set to become prime minister for the third time, heading the Alliance of Change coalition.
- The UN's World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has issued a "red alert" on climate change, warning that 2024 is on track to be the hottest year on record. Global temperatures from January to September were 1.54°C above pre-industrial levels, largely due to the warming impact of an El Niño event.
- Businessman Alix Didier Fils-Aime has been sworn in as Haiti's new prime minister, pledging to tackle the country's security challenges and restore stability. He replaces Garry Conille, who was ousted after just five months in office due to a power struggle with Haiti's transitional council over ministerial appointments.
- President-elect Donald Trump has chosen Republican Rep. **Elise Stefanik to serve as U.S. Ambassador** to the United Nations, marking his first Cabinet pick for his second term.
- Australia has appointed its **first Anti-Slavery Commissioner, Chris Evans**, who serve a five-year term starting in December 2024.
- Scarecrow Incorporated, based in Tokyo's Shibuya Ward, has secured the world's first patent for its animal supplement, Pinfenon (S) (R). This innovative product is designed to treat and prevent cardiac disorders in dogs by reducing atrial natriuretic peptide (ANP) levels.

International Current Affairs of November 2024

- The **United States, Japan, and South Korea** have jointly announced the **Digital Infrastructure Growth Initiative for India (DiGi Framework)**, marking a new chapter in digital infrastructure support for India. The DiGi Framework, formalized on October 25, 2024, was signed by **US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC)**, Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), and Korea Eximbank.
- A cyber-espionage operation allegedly orchestrated by a Chinese hacking group known as **"Salt Typhoon"** has reportedly targeted the **phone data of former President Donald Trump**, his running mate JD Vance, and various Democratic figures, including staff from Vice President Kamala Harris's campaign.
- **Brazil** has chosen not to join **China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)**, becoming the second member of the **BRICS bloc**, after **India**, to opt out of Beijing's ambitious multi-billion-dollar infrastructure project. The move has sparked widespread interest and debate, as it reflects Brazil's cautious stance on joining China's influential global initiative.
- **Hezbollah, the Lebanese Shia** paramilitary and political group, announced the appointment of **Sheikh Naim Qassem** as its new secretary-general following the recent assassination of **Hassan Nasrallah by Israel** on September 27.





- China's \$1.3 billion megaport in Chancay, Peru, majority-owned by Chinese shipping giant Cosco, aims to strengthen trade links between South America and Asia.
- Former Democratic Congresswoman **Tulsi Gabbard** was appointed as the **Director of National Intelligence (DNI)** by U.S. President-elect Donald Trump on **November 13**.
- A new dataset released at the UN climate talks shows that cities in Asia and the U.S. are the biggest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions, with Shanghai leading the list, followed by Tokyo, New York, and Houston.
- Duma Boko, Botswana's newly elected president, has made history by ending the six-decade rule of the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP). Boko, a 54-year-old human rights lawyer, is recognized for his confidence, humility, and dedication to justice, marking a significant political shift in Botswana's history with his victory over the long-standing ruling party.
- On November 2, Kemi Badenoch, 44, made history as the first Black woman to lead the UK's Conservative Party, succeeding Rishi Sunak. Badenoch won the leadership race after Sunak's resignation, defeating former minister Robert Jenrick with 53,806 votes, representing a 72.8% turnout among Conservative Party members.
- Donald Trump has won a crucial victory in Wisconsin, securing 276 electoral votes, surpassing the 270 needed to reclaim the White House as America's 47th president. Speaking to a jubilant crowd in West Palm Beach, Florida, he expressed gratitude for the honor of being elected, acknowledging his distinctive role as both the 45th and now the 47th president. JD Vance will serve as vice president in this administration.
- Moldova as pro-Western President **Maia Sandu** won a second term in a highly contested presidential runoff.
- Switzerland is set to enforce its controversial "**burqa ban**" starting **January 1, 2025**.
- All members of **Bangladesh's National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)** resigned on Thursday, shortly after the release of a critical report highlighting an increase in mob violence.
- Australia is set to implement a significant move by banning social media access for **children under 16, starting in November**.
- Mount Lewotobi Laki-laki in eastern Indonesia erupted on November 7, sending a massive ash column over 6,500 meters into the sky. The 1,584-meter volcano, located on Flores Island.
- **India did not support Pakistan and Syria's resolution on "conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels"** during the First Committee of the UN General Assembly. The resolution, which aimed at promoting arms control in specific regions, was adopted with 179 votes in favor.
- Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva officially launched the **Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty** during the opening of the G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro. This

landmark initiative, which aims to accelerate efforts to eradicate hunger and poverty globally by 2030, boasts 148 founding members, including 82 countries such as Brazil, India, China, the US, and several European nations. The alliance also includes prominent international organizations like the African Union, EU, UNICEF, FAO, and WTO, along with financial institutions such as the World Bank Group and the African Development Bank, all committed to mobilizing funds. Key NGOs and philanthropies, including the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, BRAC, and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, are also part of this global effort.

- **Super Typhoon Man-yi**, locally known as **Pepito**, has made a second landfall on the **Philippines' Luzon Island**, bringing severe **winds**, torrential **rains**, and life-threatening **storm surges**.
- Gabon held a historic **referendum** where **91% of voters** approved a new constitution, signaling a significant political shift. The new constitution seeks to end **55 years of dynastic rule** and restore a **democratic civilian government**. The **military junta**, which seized power in a **coup** in August 2023, orchestrated the referendum, marking the beginning of a new era of governance in the country.
- Iraq is conducting its first nationwide **census** since 1987, with **120,000 researchers** collecting data across all 18 governorates. The **two-day survey** is aimed at modernizing **data collection**, assisting in **development planning**, and offering a comprehensive view of Iraq's **demographic, social, and economic landscape**. The last census was held in **1987**, with a **1997 census** excluding the **Kurdish region**.
- On November 21, 2024, Mali's ruling **military junta** dismissed **Prime Minister Choguel Maiga**, replacing him with junta spokesperson **Abdoulaye Maiga**. The move comes amid increasing criticism of the junta's management of the **transition to democracy** and rising **political tensions** in the country.
- The **Ngusaba Goreng** festival in **Bali** is a two-week-long **Thanksgiving** celebration for a rich harvest, central to **Balinese Hinduism** and blending **Hindu, animist, and Buddhist** traditions. The festival features sacred dances like **Rejang Dewa** and **Rejang Pucuk**, performed by **girls** who have not yet reached puberty, symbolizing **purity**. **Ngusaba** translates to the "gathering of gods and goddesses."
- **UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer** announced the resumption of **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** negotiations with **India** in early 2025, following a meeting with **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**. This move aims to strengthen their **strategic partnership** across sectors like **security, defense, technology, climate, health, and education**. Bilateral trade stands at **GBP 42 billion** annually. The talks, which were paused due to elections, will build on the progress from the **14th round** of discussions, with both sides aiming to close remaining gaps for a successful deal.





- **Armenia** has become the **104th full member** of the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**, established in **2015** to promote global **solar energy adoption**. This reflects Armenia's commitment to sustainable energy and supports the ISA's goal of mobilizing **USD 1000 billion by 2030**.
- **Yamandu Orsi**, a former **history teacher** and **mayor of Canelones**, has been elected **Uruguay's president** with **49.8%** of the vote in the **November 2024 runoff**. Representing the **center-left Broad Front coalition**, Orsi defeated **Alvaro Delgado** of the **conservative National Party**. His victory signals a shift back to **center-left governance** after five years of conservative rule, promising **change** while maintaining Uruguay's **moderate ethos**.
- Sri Lanka's **Central Bank (CBSL)** has introduced a single **Overnight Policy Rate (OPR)** of **8%** to support the country's recovery post-financial crisis. This move replaces the previous system of **Standing Deposit Facility Rate (SDFR)** and **Standing Lending Facility Rate (SLFR)**, signaling a shift in the **monetary policy** framework amidst ongoing **debt restructuring**.
- The **first round** of the **India-Japan Dialogue on Economic Security, Strategic Trade, and Technology** took place in **Tokyo** on November 27, 2024. Co-chaired by **Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri** (India) and **Vice Minister Masataka Okano** (Japan), the dialogue focused on enhancing **bilateral cooperation in economic security, supply chain resilience, and emerging technologies**, marking a significant step in strengthening the **India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership**.
- India and **Bosnia & Herzegovina** held their **4th Foreign Office Consultations (FOC)** in **Sarajevo**, led by **Arun Kumar Sahu** (India) and **Tarik Bukvic** (Bosnia). Discussions focused on strengthening **bilateral political ties, trade and investment, scientific collaboration, and cultural relations** through **student exchanges and youth programs**. The two sides reviewed **regional developments** and discussed global issues, including cooperation in **BRICS, UN, EU, and NAM**. These consultations are part of efforts to celebrate **30 years of diplomatic ties** in 2025 and deepen multi-faceted relations.
- The **Indian and Sri Lankan Navies** conducted a successful **anti-narcotics operation** in the **Arabian Sea**, seizing **500 kg of crystal methamphetamine** from two **Sri Lankan-flagged fishing vessels** on November 24-25, 2024. The operation, based on inputs from the Sri Lankan Navy, highlights the growing **cooperation** between the two nations in combating **transnational crimes**.
- **External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar** inaugurated the new **Indian Embassy Chancery** in **Rome**, emphasizing the **historical ties and maritime connections** between **India and Italy**. The inauguration strengthens the growing **India-Italy partnership** and enhances the Embassy's capacity to serve the **Indian diaspora**, reflecting India's expanding **global presence and diplomatic outreach**.

- Australia has introduced a **world-first legislation** banning children under **16** from social media platforms like **TikTok, Facebook, and Instagram** to protect minors from online harm. The law imposes fines of up to **AUD 50 million** for non-compliance, with platforms given one year to implement changes. While praised for enhancing **child safety**, critics express concerns about potential **privacy risks** and unintended harm to vulnerable youth.

India Visits By Foreigners

PM Modi Receives Highest Honors from Guyana and Dominica

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been conferred **prestigious awards by Guyana and Dominica** in recognition of his **significant contributions during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as his efforts in strengthening international ties**, especially between India and these Caribbean nations. These awards highlight the deepening diplomatic relations and the global recognition of Modi's leadership in global health, climate resilience, and development cooperation.

Guyana's 'The Order of Excellence' Award

- PM Modi was awarded **'The Order of Excellence,' Guyana's highest honor, by President Irfaan Ali**.
- The award acknowledges his **exceptional contributions during the COVID-19 pandemic and his global leadership**.
- Modi dedicated the honor to the people of India, highlighting the long-standing ties between India and Guyana.
- The award emphasizes the strengthening of India-Guyana relations, with Modi's visit seen as a testament to India's commitment to these ties.

Dominica's 'Award of Honour'

- Modi was also conferred the **'Dominica Award of Honour' by President Sylvanie Burton of Dominica**.
- The award recognizes Modi's leadership and **India's support during the COVID-19 pandemic, including the provision of 70,000 AstraZeneca vaccines to Dominica**.
- Modi dedicated the award to the people of India and emphasized the unbreakable bond between India and Dominica, especially in times of crisis.
- Dominica's Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit praised Modi for his global partnership and South-South collaboration, recognizing the enduring legacy of his leadership.

Recognition of Global Leadership

- Both awards highlight Modi's statesmanship, resilience in the face of global challenges, and commitment to human solidarity.
- Modi's actions during the pandemic, particularly the provision of vaccines and other forms of support, are central to the recognition by both nations.





- The awards reflect shared values between India, Guyana, and Dominica, such as democracy, resilience, and unity in addressing global issues like climate change and sustainable development.

Future Implications

- These awards **underscore the growing influence of India in global diplomacy, particularly in the Caribbean and South-South cooperation.**
- Modi's contributions **to healthcare, education, and climate resilience** have strengthened India's global standing and bilateral ties with these nations

International Current Affairs of October 2024

- **NATO plans to set up a new land command in Finland near the Russian border in 2025**, to lead land force operations in northern Europe during potential military conflicts. **Finland, which joined NATO last year** after Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, is preparing for the alliance's presence on its territory.
- Foreign Minister of Israel Katz announced that they decided to declare the U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres an undesirable personality in Israel and to ban his entry into Israel. Israel has declared UN chief António Guterres banning him from entry for "failing" to condemn Iran's missile attacks on Israel.
- The first shipment of **100 land-based Harpoon anti-ship missile systems ordered from the United States** has reportedly arrived in **Kaohsiung, Taiwan**, marking a significant milestone in the island's defense capabilities. The equipment was unloaded at Kaohsiung Port on September 27.
- **Claudia Sheinbaum** made history by being **sworn in as Mexico's first female president**, marking a significant milestone for the nation. Taking office after outgoing president Andrés Manuel López Obrador, her close ally from the Morena party, Sheinbaum's leadership symbolizes a continuation of progressive policies.
- The redrawing of borders between **Italy and Switzerland** is a striking response to the **rapid melting of glaciers caused by climate change**. As global temperatures rise, glaciers in the Alps are shrinking, leading to shifts in natural watershed lines that have historically defined the frontier between these two countries. This agreement, made official by Switzerland on September 27, 2024, follows a recommendation from a commission formed in 2023 to assess climate impacts on glaciers. Italy is expected to approve the changes soon, which primarily affect regions around the **Matterhorn**.

- Nepal's President Ramchandra Paudel on Sunday appointed **Prakash Man Singh Raut as the new Chief Justice** of the country. Paudel administered the oath of office and secrecy to Chief Justice Raut at a special ceremony organized at Sheetal Niwas, the President's Office.
- After **181 years of horse racing**, **Singapore** hosted its final race day at the **Singapore Turf Club** on Saturday, as the site prepares to be repurposed for new housing developments. This decision, influenced by the growing population surpassing six million, marks a significant shift in the city-state's approach to land use, prioritizing housing over recreational activities.
- The recent inauguration of a new runway at **Hanimadhoo International Airport** and the launch of the **RuPay card** in the Maldives signify a pivotal moment in the evolving relationship between **India and the Maldives**. Conducted through a virtual ceremony, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu marked these developments as essential steps to enhance economic ties and boost tourism cooperation.
- **Bangladesh's interim government** has established a **nine-member Constitution Reform Commission**, headed by **Bangladeshi-American professor Ali Riaz**, to review and propose reforms within 90 days. The commission, formed after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina resigned, aims to create a more representative and democratic framework. Members include professors, legal experts, and student representatives, with student **Mahfuj Alam** serving as special assistant to **Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus**.
- President **Kais Saied** has secured a second **five-year term** as Tunisia's leader in an election marked by both overwhelming numbers and significant concerns. The Independent High Authority for Elections of Tunisia (**ISIE**) announced on October 7, 2024, that Saied had won a staggering **90.7 percent** of the votes cast, a figure that has raised eyebrows among democratic observers worldwide.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) has officially validated India's elimination of trachoma as a public health problem, marking a significant achievement in public health. **Trachoma, caused by the bacterium Chlamydia trachomatis**, is one of the leading causes of global blindness. **WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus** praised India for its commitment to combating this debilitating disease, joining the ranks of Nepal and Myanmar in the WHO South-East Asia Region and 19 other countries worldwide that have achieved this milestone.
- **Beijing is systematically increasing pressure on Taiwan through a multifaceted strategy** that military officials describe as the **"Anaconda Strategy,"** aimed at compelling Taipei to accept reunification as inevitable.





- The **UN General Assembly (UNGA)** has elected **18 new members** to the **47-member Human Rights Council** for the **2025-2027 term**. This election, conducted via secret ballot, includes countries such as **Benin, Bolivia, Colombia, Cyprus, Qatar, and Thailand**. The newly elected members will start their three-year terms on **January 1, 2025**. Based in **Geneva**, the Human Rights Council is vital for promoting and protecting human rights worldwide. The elections emphasize a commitment to staggered terms, ensuring continuity in the Council's composition.
- **Nicaragua** has officially severed **diplomatic relations with Israel**, a move announced by **Vice President Rosario Murillo** following a congressional resolution. This decision aligns with **Nicaragua's** leftist government, led by **President Daniel Ortega**, which has condemned Israel's actions in the ongoing Gaza conflict and labeled its government as **"fascist and genocidal."**
- **United States** has announced it will send the advanced **THAAD missile defence system** to Israel. This move is part of a broader strategy to bolster Israel's defence capabilities and deter further aggression from Iran and other regional adversaries. The deployment underscores the **US's "ironclad commitment"** to Israel's defence and comes at a time of heightened geopolitical sensitivity in the region. **THAAD** stands for **Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense**, a cutting-edge **anti-ballistic missile defense system** developed by **Lockheed Martin Corporation**. The system is designed to intercept and destroy enemy missiles in their final, or **terminal phase**, making it a critical asset for defending against missile threats.
- Tensions between India and Canada have escalated significantly, particularly following the murder of Sikh separatist **Hardeep Singh Nijjar** in June 2023. This incident triggered a series of diplomatic retaliations, including the expulsion of Indian diplomats by Canada and subsequent expulsions by India. The conflict has deep roots, dating back to controversies involving **Sikh separatism** and criticisms exchanged over various issues, including farmer protests in India.
- Lok Sabha Speaker **Om Birla** recently addressed the **149th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)** held from **October 13 to 17, 2024**, at the IPU headquarters in **Geneva, Switzerland**. During his address, Birla emphasized the critical need for **multilateralism** in today's world, advocating for dialogue and cooperation among parliaments in the realms of **science, technology, and innovation** for the common good.
- The **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** has introduced significant **changes to its criteria for placing countries on its grey list**, aiming to relieve the burden on least developed countries (LDCs) while targeting nations that pose greater risks to the international financial system.
FATF's Revised Criteria
 - The changes prioritize active reviews of countries that meet specific risk criteria, focusing on FATF Members.
 - **Countries on the World Bank's High-Income Countries list** (excluding those with only two or fewer banks in the financial sector).
 - **Countries with financial sector assets above USD 10 billion**.
 - Least developed countries **will not be prioritized unless they pose significant risks related to money laundering or terrorist financing**.
- India has fulfilled a significant commitment made during the third **Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC III) Summit** by sending its first consignment of **12 Haemo-Dialysis machines to Papua New Guinea (PNG)**. Also in response to rising tensions and ongoing conflict in southern Lebanon, India has dispatched the first tranche of a **33-ton consignment of medical supplies as part of a humanitarian effort to support Lebanon**.
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated three new airports developed under the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) – UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik) from Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh today. The newly inaugurated airports are located in **Rewa (Madhya Pradesh), Ambikapur (Chhattisgarh), and Saharanpur (Uttar Pradesh)**.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **Karmayogi Saptah, or National Learning Week**, on October 19, 2024, at the **Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi**. This initiative is part of Mission Karmayogi, which aims to foster continuous skill enhancement among civil servants, aligning their competencies with the evolving goals of India, especially towards achieving a developed nation by 2047.
- Union Culture and Tourism **Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** and **Minister of State for Coal and Mines Satish Chandra Dubey** inaugurated the **first-ever coal gallery** at the **National Science Centre in New Delhi**. The exhibition, titled **"Black Diamond – Unveiling the Depths,"** highlights **coal's journey** from its formation to its essential role in modern energy production.
- The **first anniversary of Namo Bharat train** operations was celebrated as **Namo Bharat Diwas in New Delhi**, marking a significant milestone in India's transportation history. The **National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC)** organized the event, attended by Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, Shri Manohar Lal Khattar, and Union Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs, Shri Tokhan





Sahu. During the celebration, excellence awards were presented to outstanding employees who contributed to the success of the Namu Bharat initiative.

- Union Food and Consumer Affairs Minister **Shri Pralhad Joshi** has launched the retail phase of **Bharat Chana Dal Phase II in Delhi-NCR**, marking a significant step in the government's commitment to provide essential food items at affordable prices.
- The government will celebrate the **150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel** with a nationwide program spanning two years, from 2024 to 2026. Announced by **Union Home Minister Amit Shah on October 23, 2024**, the initiative aims to honor Patel's monumental contributions to India.
- The Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying, **Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh**, also known as Lalan Singh, is set to launch the **21st Livestock Census operation**, a significant initiative aimed at gathering comprehensive data on India's livestock sector. The launch event is scheduled for October 25, 2024.
- The Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW) has announced a significant **new initiative for central government pensioners aged 80 and older**, introducing an additional pension known as the compassionate allowance. This development comes with newly issued guidelines aimed at simplifying the process for retirees to access these supplementary benefits.
- The **National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG)** has successfully concluded its **34th Capacity Building Programme (CBP)** for Maldivian civil servants in New Delhi. Held from October 14–25, 2024, this two-week program, organized in collaboration with the **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**, represents the second initiative under a renewed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by **India's External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar and Maldives' Foreign Minister Mr. Moosa Zameer**.
- Airbus has inaugurated its new **India and South Asia Headquarters and Training Centre**, marking a significant investment in the Indian aerospace sector. Located in the National Capital Region (NCR), this facility is poised to play a key role in **training pilots and technicians** and expanding Airbus's industrial footprint in India. The centre is equipped with four A320 simulators and boasts a **capacity to train up to 800 pilots and 200 technicians annually**.
- **Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh** launched the 21st Livestock Census on Friday, which will be conducted **until February next year at a cost of ₹200 crore**. He emphasized that the collection of precise data is crucial for the government to formulate effective policies **aimed at ensuring animal health security and promoting growth in the livestock sector**.

- Newly inaugurated **President Prabowo Subianto** has unveiled **Indonesia's largest-ever Cabinet, comprising 109 members**. Named the **"Red and White Cabinet"** after Indonesia's flag, this lineup reflects his vision of a strong, unified government.
- On October 21, **Pakistan enacted the Constitution (26th Amendment) Act, 2024**, limiting the Chief Justice's tenure to three years and establishing a special commission for appointing the top judge from **three senior-most Supreme Court judges**. The amendment received **President Asif Ali Zardari's** assent.
- **Pakistan has appointed Justice Yahya Afridi** as the next Chief Justice, bypassing the traditional seniority principle. This decision follows the **26th Constitutional Amendment**, which granted the committee the authority to appoint the top judge, replacing the seniority-based elevation system.
- **Vietnam's parliament** elected army general **Luong Cuong as the new state president**, marking a significant move to restore stability after a period of political upheaval. The 67-year-old Cuong succeeds To Lam.
- **Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu** has announced the introduction of **India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** to enhance the country's economy by improving financial inclusion and transaction efficiency. This initiative is part of a broader strategy to strengthen ties with India following Muizzu's previous stance against Indian military presence in the Maldives.
- **Egypt** has reached a significant public health milestone by being officially declared **'malaria-free' by the World Health Organization (WHO) on October 20, 2024**. This achievement makes Egypt the **second country in the world to receive this certification in 2024, following Cabo Verde**.
- The **United States, Japan, and South Korea** have jointly announced the **Digital Infrastructure Growth Initiative for India (DiGi Framework)**, marking a new chapter in digital infrastructure support for India. The DiGi Framework, formalized on October 25, 2024, was signed by **US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC)**, **Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)**, and **Korea Eximbank**.
- A cyber-espionage operation allegedly orchestrated by a Chinese hacking group known as **"Salt Typhoon"** has reportedly targeted the **phone data of former President Donald Trump**, his running mate JD Vance, and various Democratic figures, including staff from Vice President Kamala Harris's campaign.
- **Brazil** has chosen not to join **China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)**, becoming the second member of the **BRICS bloc**, after **India**, to opt out of Beijing's ambitious multi-billion-dollar infrastructure project. The move has sparked widespread interest and debate, as it reflects Brazil's cautious stance on joining China's influential global initiative.





- **Hezbollah, the Lebanese Shia** paramilitary and political group, announced the appointment of **Sheikh Naim Qassem** as its new secretary-general following the recent assassination of **Hassan Nasrallah by Israel** on September 27.
- Lahore has once again claimed the title of the most polluted city globally, with the **Air Quality Index (AQI)** soaring to alarming levels. Recently recorded at a staggering 708, the PM2.5 levels reached an unprecedented **431 µg/m³**, significantly exceeding the World Health Organization's recommended **annual limit by 86 times**.

International Current Affairs of September 2024

- **Super Typhoon Yagi**, the **most powerful storm** to hit Asia in over a decade, has caused significant disruption across Southeast Asia. After devastating the northern Philippines, the typhoon made landfall in **southern China's Hainan province**, leading to mass evacuations and widespread damage. Yagi is expected to continue its path towards Vietnam and Laos, impacting northern regions with severe weather conditions.
- The British government has announced plans to erect a **national memorial for Queen Elizabeth II in St James's Park, London**. This site was chosen due to its historical significance and its close connection to the late monarch, who passed away on September 8, 2022, after over seven decades on the throne.
- French President **Emmanuel Macron** has made a significant political decision by appointing **Michel Barnier**, the former EU Brexit negotiator, as France's new Prime Minister on September 5, 2024. This appointment comes after an extended period of political uncertainty and marks a crucial moment in France's ongoing efforts to form a stable government.
- **Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune** has been re-elected for a second term with 95% of the vote, according to the **country's electoral authority, ANIE**. The official results indicate that Tebboune received 94.65% of the vote, while his opponents, **Abdelaali Hassani Cherif** and **Youcef Aouchiche**, garnered **3% and 2%** respectively. Voter turnout was reported at 48%, with more than 24 million Algerians registered to vote.
- **Israel's Tower Semiconductor** and **India's Adani Group** are set to **invest 839.47 billion rupees (\$10 billion)** in a semiconductor manufacturing project in Maharashtra. The initiative highlights India's push to become a global hub for chip production, despite previous challenges such as Foxconn's withdrawal from a \$19.5 billion joint venture with Vedanta and stalled plans by ISMC to invest \$3 billion.
- In a solemn and significant ceremony held today at the **Office of the President, Sheetal Niwas, Ashok Raj Sigdel** was officially sworn in as the **45th Chief of the Army Staff (CoAS)** of the **Nepali Army**. This momentous occasion marks a new chapter in Nepal's military leadership and underscores the nation's commitment to its armed forces.
- Nepal has become the **101st** country to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA) as a full member. The Ministry of External Affairs said that Nepal handed over its **Instrument of Ratification to the ISA in New Delhi** on 9th September.
- Mexico became the world's first country to **allow voters to elect judges at all levels** after protesters invaded the upper house and suspended debate on the issue. The reform was approved with 86 votes in favor and 41 against, garnering the two-thirds majority needed to amend the constitution.
- **United States of America's president Joe Biden** will host leaders from QUAD members of other countries like India, Japan and Australia in Wilmington, Delaware on 21st September in the USA.
- The United Nations General Assembly provides an opportunity to member states a unique forum for multilateral discussions on international issues, this year **79th session of UNGA started on 10th September. Philemon Yang from Cameroon is the new president of UNGA this year.**
- Algeria has been officially authorized to join the **BRICS New Development Bank (NDB)**, as announced by the **bank's president, Dilma Rousseff**, during the **ninth annual meeting in Cape Town**. The NDB, established by the BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) in 2015, aims to support infrastructure and sustainable development projects in emerging economies and developing nations.
- Iran launched its **Chamran-1 research satellite** into orbit on Saturday, its **second successful satellite** launch this year, taking another step in advancing its aerospace programme reported by the state media.
- **Typhoon Bebinca** strikes many countries, as it looks dangerous, it has already struck in the **Philippines, Japan and will hit Shanghai** city in China soon.
- **Jordan's King Abdullah II** has accepted the resignation of **Prime Minister Bisher al-Khasawneh** following last week's parliamentary elections. **Al-Khasawneh**, a seasoned diplomat who had been in office since October 2020, resigned in accordance with the constitutional norm after legislative elections. Jafar Hassan, a technocrat and former planning minister who was serving as the king's head of office, has been appointed as the new prime minister.





- The World Health Organization (WHO) has officially recognized Jordan as the first country globally to eliminate leprosy, marking a significant milestone in public health. **WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus** praised this achievement, emphasizing the collective efforts to stop transmission and reduce the stigma associated with leprosy.
- **Nepal** marked a significant milestone in its democratic journey by celebrating the **ninth anniversary** of the declaration of its constitution. The nation erupted in jubilant festivities, with the capital city of Kathmandu at the epicenter of the celebrations.
- **Anura Kumara Dissanayake** has emerged as **Sri Lanka's newly elected president**, securing 42% of the vote in the country's first election since the 2022 economic collapse.
- **China will hold joint naval and air drills with Russia in the Sea of Japan and the Sea of Okhotsk** along with the two countries carrying out a joint maritime patrol in the Pacific.
- Amid the growing tension in the Middle-East, Iran for the first time has showcased the **Shahed 136B drone and Jihad ballistic missile**.
- The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** has taken a significant step to support Pakistan's struggling economy by approving a new **\$7 billion loan**. This decision, announced on Wednesday, comes more than two months after initial negotiations between the IMF and Pakistani authorities reached a staff-level agreement.
- **Dassault Aviation**, the renowned French aircraft manufacturer famous for its **Rafale fighter planes**, has taken a significant step towards expanding its presence in the Indian market. On Wednesday, the company announced the establishment of a new subsidiary dedicated exclusively to military **Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO)** operations in India.
- **Thailand** the **third place in Asia**, after Taiwan and Nepal, to allow same-sex marriage. The bill grants full legal, financial and medical rights for marriage partners of any gender. Thailand's **landmark marriage equality bill was officially written into law allowing same-sex couples to legally wed**.
- **The iconic Shah Alam Stadium**, one of Malaysia's premier sports venues with a seating capacity of **80,372**, met its demise as concerns over its safety rendered it unfit for use. **Established in 1994**, the stadium not only served as the backdrop for exhilarating football matches but also hosted globally renowned concerts.

- **Shigeru Ishiba, former defence minister**, is poised to become **Japan's next prime minister** after winning the **Liberal Democratic Party's (LDP) leadership vote**. Ishiba will succeed Fumio Kishida, who stepped down following scandals that damaged his tenure. With the LDP holding a majority in the lower house, Ishiba's path to the role is effectively secured. He edged out economic security minister Sanae Takaichi by a narrow margin of **21 votes** in the leadership race.

International Current Affairs of August 2024

- The **5th AITIGA Joint Committee meeting**, marking a significant milestone in ASEAN-India economic cooperation, took place in **Jakarta from July 29 to August 1, 2024**.
- Bangladesh's Nobel laureate **Muhammad Yunus** will head the country's interim government after **former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina** stepped down and fled the country amid a mass uprising against her rule led mostly by students.
- Purandar Highlands Farmers Producer Company Ltd has achieved a significant milestone by exporting **India's first GI-tagged fig juice to Poland**.
- The **Australian government** has unveiled the **Maitri Research and Cultural Partnerships Grants**.
- The yen carry trade, a popular investment strategy involving **borrowing yen at low interest rates** to invest in **higher-yielding assets**, has faced a significant setback.
- China is close to launching its first batch of satellites for a mega constellation aimed at rivaling US company **SpaceX's Starlink Internet network**.
- The **Neelakurinji** (*Strobilanthes kunthiana*), a remarkable flowering shrub native to the montane grasslands of southwest India, has recently been added to the **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species**.
- In a groundbreaking discovery, archaeologists may have uncovered the **world's oldest solar calendar** at the renowned archaeological site of **Göbekli Tepe** in southern Turkey.
- **India and Australia** recently held two significant **bilateral meetings** to enhance their Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. Australia hosted the **6th India-Australia Maritime Security Dialogue in Canberra**, while India hosted the **14th India-Australia Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism in New Delhi**.
- Germany's recent inclusion in the U.S.-led United Nations Command (UNC) in South Korea marks a significant expansion of the command's member states, now totaling 18 nations.
- **Sweden** has confirmed its **first case of the mpox Clade I variant**, marking the first occurrence of this more **dangerous strain outside Africa**.





International Current Affairs of July 2024

- A **human rights team** from the **United Nations** will visit Dhaka next week to discuss with the **Bangladesh interim government**, investigations into the human rights violations during the recent **unrest in Bangladesh**.
- The ICC has announced the relocation of the **Women’s T20 World Cup 2024 from Bangladesh to the United Arab Emirates (UAE)** due to significant safety concerns.
- The Environmental Strategic Partnership between **India and Denmark** has **launched a Smart Laboratory on Clean Rivers (SLCR)** with initial funding of **Rs 16.8 crore from the Jal Shakti Ministry** and an additional **Rs 5 crore from Denmark**.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi pledged extensive humanitarian support and handed over four **BHISHM (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita and Maitri)** Cubes to the Ukrainian government.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi’s visit to Poland** marked a historic moment as it was the **first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to the country in 45 years**.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has wrapped up **his trip to Ukraine**. Modi became the first Indian prime minister to make a state visit to Ukraine since the two countries established relations over three decades ago.
- **North Korean leader Kim Jong Un** recently unveiled a new type of **“suicide drone,”** with state media reporting that he personally oversaw a performance test of the weaponry.
- **India and Indonesia** have reaffirmed their commitment to combating terrorism, including addressing the misuse of new and **emerging technologies by terrorists**. During the sixth meeting of the India-Indonesia Joint Working Group on **Counter-Terrorism held in Jakarta**.
- The 24th International Mother Teresa Awards Ceremony took place on August 26, 2024, at **Millennium Plaza Dubai**, marking the **114th birth anniversary** of the esteemed humanitarian.
- **Typhoon Shanshan** made landfall on **Japan’s southwestern main island of Kyushu** on August 29.
- Singapore Airlines on August 30, said it has received **approval from the Indian government** for the foreign direct investment as part of the proposed merger of **Vistara with Air India**. This deal will create one of the **world’s largest airline groups**.
- **WHO** has declared **Dhulikhel Municipality of Kavrepalanchok district** as **Nepal’s first ‘healthy city’** and **second healthiest city in Asia**. Since 2014, **Dhulikhel Municipality** has implemented various programmes to achieve the status.
- The **United Nations** has allocated **\$100 million** from the **Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)** to address **critical humanitarian needs in 10 countries** across Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and the Caribbean. Acting UN humanitarian chief Joyce Msuya emphasized the dire need for this funding, noting that a lack of resources is hindering aid agencies from providing essential life-saving assistance.

- On **July 3, Japan** will introduce new banknotes featuring what it claims to be the world’s pioneering use of **advanced holography**. This technology creates the illusion of historic figures’ portraits rotating in **3D** on the bills, serving as a key anti-counterfeit measure. This marks the **first redesign of the banknotes in 20 years**.
- On June 30 and July 1, 2024, the world witnessed a significant event in international relations. The **third United Nations Conference on Afghanistan** took place in **Doha, Qatar**, marking the first time the **Taliban** participated in such talks since taking control of Afghanistan.
- China has constructed a **new presidential palace in Vanuatu**, symbolizing the strengthening relationship between the two nations. The **Vanuatu Prime Minister, Charlot Salwai**, inaugurated the new building, which is part of a broader project that includes a new finance ministry and renovations to the foreign affairs department.
- More than **300 domestic companies** and over **100 foreign buyers** from the **US, Germany and other countries** are expected to participate in the four-day international toy fair **beginning on July 6** in the national capital. More than **250 Indian brands** will display their products during the fair, which is being organised at **Pragati Maidan Delhi**.
- Hungary has assumed the rotating presidency of the Council of the European Union for the next six months. Under the leadership of **Prime Minister Viktor Orbán**, Hungary aims to prioritize EU competitiveness, defense policy, migration control, and agricultural reform. The presidency’s motto, **“Make Europe Great Again,”** reflects a stance emphasizing unity and proactive global engagement.
- Former spy chief **Dick Schoof** is the new **Dutch prime minister**, leading a right-wing coalition with a focus on implementing the **“strictest-ever”** immigration policy. Schoof, 67, previously headed the **Dutch Secret Service** and takes over from Mark Rutte, who served 14 years in power.
- **Russia** has approved the schedule for the creation of a **Russian orbital station by 2033**. The schedule includes the design and construction of the space modules, flight tests of a new-generation manned spaceship, the creation of launch vehicles and space infrastructure on **Earth**, and a timetable for the work of **scientific institutes** supporting the project.
- **Keir Starmer**, born in 1963 to a working-class family near London, is set to **become Britain’s next Prime Minister**. With a background in human rights law and public prosecution, he entered politics relatively late, becoming an MP in 2015.
- **Masoud Pezeshkian**, a seasoned lawmaker and cardiac surgeon, has emerged victorious in **Iran’s presidential election**, defeating hardliner Saeed Jalili.





- **Rachel Reeves** has become the **first woman finance minister** of **UK**. The 45-year-old is an economist and has pledged to grow the nation's economy. Rachel was appointed as the chancellor on June 5, after the **Keir Starmer-led Labour Party** won a majority in Thursday's general election. She is now in charge of the **UK's Budget**.
- **India and Russia** have set a target to increase **bilateral trade to \$100 billion by 2030**, emphasizing economic collaboration in energy, trade, manufacturing, and fertilizers. Discussions included balancing trade, reducing non-tariff barriers, and exploring an **India-Eurasian Economic Union Free Trade Area**.
- The **Colombo Security Conclave (CSC)**, a regional security grouping, welcomed **Bangladesh** as its **fifth member** at the **8th Deputy National Security Adviser (DNSA)** level meeting hosted virtually by Mauritius. The CSC includes India, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, and the Maldives, with Seychelles participating as an Observer State.
- As of June 30, 2024, Ireland has overtaken Mauritius to secure the fourth spot among preferred destinations for **Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIS)** routing funds into India. **Ireland boasts assets under custody (AUC) totaling Rs 4.41 trillion**, slightly edging out Mauritius which recorded Rs 4.39 trillion. The shift highlights Ireland's appeal, with a 26% increase in AUC in the first half of the year compared to Mauritius' 11% uptick.
- In a comprehensive study conducted by InterNations in 2024, **Vietnam** has once again secured its position as the **most affordable destination for expatriates**. This marks the fourth consecutive year that the Southeast Asian nation has topped the list, solidifying its reputation as a prime location for those seeking an economical lifestyle abroad.
- **K.P. Sharma Oli** on July 15 was sworn in as **Nepal's Prime Minister** for the **fourth time**. The leader of Nepal's largest communist party was appointed Nepal's Prime Minister on July 14, by **President Ram Chandra Paudel** to lead a new coalition government that faces the daunting challenge of providing political stability in the Himalayan nation.
- The **Philippines** has been chosen to host the board of the **"Loss and Damage"** fund created by **U.N.** talks, marking another step towards providing financial help for countries to recover and rebuild from the impact of global warming. Last month, the **World Bank's board** approved a plan for the bank to act as interim host of the fund for four years.
- A new **high-quality malaria vaccine** developed by the **Serum Institute of India** and the **University of Oxford** is officially being rolled out in **Africa**. With this, **Côte d'Ivoire** has become the **first country in West Africa** to start **administering R21/Matrix-M**.
- **President Paul Kagame** has secured a decisive victory in **Rwanda's 2024 presidential election**, capturing 99.15% of the votes, as reported by the National Electoral Commission. This marks his fourth consecutive term in office.
- **Roberta Metsola**, a prominent Maltese politician, has secured a historic **second term as President of the European Parliament**, making her the first woman to achieve this feat in the EU assembly's history. Known for her leadership and advocacy, Metsola garnered significant support from EU politicians, receiving **562 out of 623 votes in her favor**.
- The **annual Kataragama Esala festival** is being **celebrated in Sri Lanka**. Devotees who started their **Pada Yatra** in May have reached Kataragama completing a **journey of over 500 kilometres** across difficult terrain on foot from as far afield as **Jaffna in Sri Lanka's northern peninsula**.
- Belarus has announced a new visa-free regime allowing citizens from **35 European countries** to stay in the country for up to **90 days per year**. This policy, effective from July 19, 2024, is seen as an attempt by Minsk to ease tensions with the West, following recent geopolitical shifts and ongoing sanctions.
- **Ivory Coast (Côte d'Ivoire)** has recently become the **53rd Party to the 1992 UN Water Convention**, officially known as the Convention on the Protection and Use of **Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes**. This accession marks Ivory Coast as the 10th African nation to join the treaty. The move highlights a growing trend among African nations to enhance cooperative water management amidst increasing water stress and climate change impacts.
- **China** has built the **world's first passenger train** made from carbon fibre, a material that makes it much lighter and more energy-efficient than conventional trains.
- **Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy** spoke with Estonia's newly elected **Prime Minister Kristen Michal** on his first day in office, July 22.
- The **Israeli Knesset** has approved a bill to designate the **United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA)** as a terrorist organization.
- The **International Olympic Committee** named the **French Alps** as the host for the **2030 Winter Games** on July 24, though the decision is subject to certain conditions.
- **Salt Lake City** in **Utah** state of the **USA** will host the **Winter Olympics and Paralympics Games in 2034**. The decision was taken by the IOC Members during the **142nd IOC Session in Paris** here on July 24.
- **Azerbaijan**, hosting **COP29** from **November 11 to 22** this year, has announced the creation of a **Climate Finance Action Fund (CFAF)**.
- **Singapore** has reclaimed its title as the **world's most powerful passport**, offering visa-free access to a record **195 global destinations** according to the **Henley Passport Index**. **India** ranks **82nd**, allowing **visa-free entry to 58 countries**.
- India is hosting the **World Heritage Committee Meeting** for the first time. It takes place from **21 to 31 July 2024**, at **Bharat Mandapam** in New Delhi.





International Current Affairs of June 2024

- **China's space agency** announced on 4 June 2024 that BEIJING- **China's Chang'e-6** probe has lifted off from the far side of the moon, starting its journey back towards Earth. China is getting closer to being the first nation to return samples from the far side of the moon, which is always facing away from Earth, thanks to the probe's successful exit from the moon.
- **Dr. Helen Mary Roberts, a Christian lady**, became the first woman to be promoted to the rank of one-star officer in **Pakistan's 77-year military history**. Her ascension coincides with increased attention being paid to atrocities against minorities in the nation with a majority of Muslims, particularly against Christians. In a historic move, the Pakistani Army elevated Dr. Helen Mary Roberts, **a Christian woman**, to the esteemed **rank of Brigadier** in the nation with a majority of Muslims.
- In a **historic moment** for Mexico, **Claudia Sheinbaum** has been elected as the country's first woman president, according to the provisional results announced by the Mexican election commission. Sheinbaum, from the ruling **Morena party**, has taken an unassailable lead over her nearest rivals in the presidential contest held on **June 2, 2024**.
- Pakistan has launched its second satellite, the Multi-Mission Communication Satellite (**PAKSAT MM1**), **in collaboration with China**. This satellite aims to enhance internet connectivity across Pakistan and improve various communication services.
- **South Korea** has officially launched its space agency, the **Korea AeroSpace Administration (KASA)**, to lead policy and industrial development in its aerospace sector. The establishment was made possible after the Country's national assembly **passed a special law** in January to unify government organizations in charge of space policy and projects. The new agency is based in **Sacheon, South Gyeongsang Province**, with an **annual budget of 758.9 billion won (\$556 million)**.
- Amidst tightening Western sanctions, **India's reliance on Russian oil** has seen a significant shift. Despite a decline in imports due to sanctions-related challenges, Russia has maintained its position as India's leading oil supplier for the second consecutive year.
- **Roscosmos state corporation cosmonaut Oleg Kononenko**, who currently works at the **International Space Station** has **booked a record of 1,000 days** for the **first time in the world** in terms of total spaceflight duration.
- **12 countries signed the Zero Debris Charter**, a landmark initiative led by the **European Space Agency (ESA)** to address the pressing issue of space debris. Unveiled in 2023, the Charter commits signatories to achieving **debris-neutral space activities by 2030**.

- The **Bank of England** is replacing old banknotes featuring **Queen Elizabeth** with new ones featuring **King Charles III**. People can exchange their old notes for new ones **until June 30, with a limit of £300**.
- **Sheikh Meshal** recently dissolved parliament for as many as **four years** amid the widespread political dysfunction that's gripped Kuwait. **Kuwait Emir** named the small nation's **new crown prince**, nearly six months after he took the throne. **Sheikh Sabah Khalid Al Sabah** will become next in line to the throne.
- India, the United States, South Korea, Japan, and the European Union have launched a **Biopharmaceuticals Alliance**, with its first meeting held in **San Diego, USA**, during the **Bio International Convention 2024**, the **world's largest pharmaceutical exhibition**.
- On **June 6, 2024**, the **United Nations General Assembly** convened to **elect new non-permanent members** to the UN Security Council. **Pakistan, Somalia, Panama, Denmark, and Greece** secured seats for a two-year term starting **January 1, 2025, replacing Japan, Malta, Mozambique, Ecuador, and Switzerland**. These newly elected members will join Algeria, Guyana, the Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, and Slovenia as the other non-permanent members.
- The main tunnel of the **900 MW Arun III Hydropower Project**, being constructed with Indian assistance has achieved a breakthrough, with Nepal Prime Minister **Pushpakamal Dahal 'Prachanda'** on **June 5**, triggering the last blast to mark the completion of heading excavation. **Prime Minister 'Prachanda'** attended an event to mark the completion of heading excavation for the **11.8 km-long Head Race Tunnel of the 900 MW Arun- 3 Hydro Electric Project in the Sankhuwasabha District in eastern Nepal**.
- A **700-metre pedestrian bridge**, inaugurated on **June 4**. The Bridge of National Unity is **one of the longest bridges in the world**. The **eastern Hungarian city of Satoraljujhely** has a **new tourist attraction**.
- The **UN General Assembly (UNGA)** on June 6, elected former Cameroonian **Prime Minister Philemon Yang** as president of the **79th UNGA session**. Yang will succeed **Denis Francis of Trinidad and Tobago**, president of the **78th UNGA session**, when the 79th UNGA session opens on Sept. 10 at the **UN headquarters in New York**.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** took the oath of office for an unprecedented **third straight term** as the head of a **coalition government**. The swearing-in ceremony witnessed the induction of several leaders from the **National Democratic Alliance (NDA)** partners, reflecting the BJP's commitment to rewarding its allies.
- In a strategic move to counter China's growing influence in the region, India sets its sights on managing the **Mongla Port in Bangladesh**. Following the successes of **Chabahar in Iran and Sittwe in Myanmar**, India aims to further strengthen its commercial and security interests by expanding its overseas port operations.





- **India** on June 10, wholeheartedly welcomed **Egypt, Iran, UAE, Saudi Arabia and Ethiopia** joining the **BRICS** as their representatives attended for the first time a key meeting of the grouping **hosted by Russia**. Senior diplomat **Dammu Ravi** led the Indian delegation at the BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting in **Nizhny Novgorod**, in western Russia.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** on June 10, signed the release of the **17th instalment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN Nidhi) scheme**. The move will benefit more than 93 million farmers by disbursing **more than Rs 20,000 crore**. 16th Installment of **PM KISAN** scheme was released on **28th February 2024**.
- **The National Commission for Indian Medical Systems** organized a two-day National Conference, '**PRANA**' Protecting Rights and Novelties in ASUS (Mind to Market for Indian System of Medicines [ISM] Professionals) in Collaboration with **All India Council for Technical Education** and **Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell** to mark its fourth foundation.
- **Indian universities and higher education institutions (HEIs)** will now be allowed to offer **admissions twice a year** on lines of foreign universities. The two admission cycles- followed globally also- will be **July-August** and **January-February** from the **2024-25 academic session**.
- **National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB)** has launched a **Mobile App "NCRB Sankalan of Criminal Laws"** to serve as a comprehensive guide providing complete information about the new criminal laws at one place. The New criminal laws will come into force from the **1st of next month (July)**.
- **Jammu & Kashmir** on June 12, broadened its existing **Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) with New Zealand** into a full-fledged strategic agreement. The partnership taps into New Zealand's globally recognized strengths in breeding technology, sustainable farm management and advanced disease control measures within the sheep sector.
- **India** is the **world's second largest source of nitrous oxide (N₂O)**, a greenhouse gas that heats up the atmosphere far more than carbon dioxide. Nearly **11%** of such global man-made emissions in 2020 were from India, topped only by **China at 16%**. The major source of these emissions **comes from fertiliser usage**, according to a global assessment of N₂O emissions published in the journal **Earth System Science Data** on June 12.
- Thousands of **Kashmiri Pandits** converged at the **Kheer Bhawani temple** in Kashmir Valley's Ganderbal district to attend the annual **festival of Zyestha Ashtami** on June 14. Many of them had migrated to different parts of the country in the **1990s** in the wake of raging militancy.
- The **European Commission (EC)** has made a significant decision regarding **Tanzania's eligibility** for a conservation grant under its **NaturAfrica initiative**. This decision has implications for **conservation efforts in East Africa**, particularly concerning the **Eastern Rift Savannahs and Watersheds (ERISaWa)** component of the initiative.
- **Portugal** plans to adapt its **golden visa scheme** to allow wealthy foreigners seeking residency rights to invest in affordable housing for locals or accommodation for migrants.
- In response to his party's heavy loss in the European Parliamentary elections, **French President Emmanuel Macron** has dissolved the **National Assembly and called for snap parliamentary elections**. The far-right **Rassemblement National (RN)** secured a significant victory, **winning 31.5%** of the vote compared to **Macron's Renaissance Party's 15.2%**. Macron announced the dissolution of the National Assembly in an hour-long national address, citing the need to restore trust in the French electoral process.
- **Russia and Belarus** have commenced the second stage of joint drills focused on **tactical nuclear weapons**, aimed at bolstering readiness and deterring Western support for Ukraine. These exercises, initiated by Moscow in response to perceived provocations from Western officials, underline the Kremlin's strategic stance amid heightened tensions.
- **Armenia Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan** has announced Armenia's decision to leave the **Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)**, a Russian-led military alliance. Pashinyan cited the alliance's perceived favoritism towards Azerbaijan during the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict as a primary reason for Armenia's withdrawal.
- The World Health Organisation (WHO) has designated the **National Institute of Indian Medical Heritage (NIIMH) in Hyderabad**, under the **Ministry of Ayush**, as a WHO Collaborating Centre (CC) for traditional medicine research. **Established in 1956**, NIIMH has been a pioneer in various digital initiatives of Ayush. This recognition, announced on Friday, has been granted for a period of four years, marking NIIMH as the third Indian institute to receive such an honor.
- The G7 has agreed to leverage frozen Russian assets to secure a **\$50 billion loan for Ukraine** to aid in its **defense against Russian invasion**. **US President Joe Biden** emphasized this move as a firm stance against **Russia**, while **President Vladimir Putin** condemned it as theft.
- In a ceremony marked by heightened security following an assassination attempt on **Prime Minister Robert Fico**, **Peter Pellegrini** has been inaugurated as **Slovakia's sixth president**.
- **South African President Cyril Ramaphosa** was reelected by lawmakers for a **second term** on June 14, after his party struck a dramatic late coalition deal with a former political foe just hours before the vote. Ramaphosa won the vote against **Julius Malema**, leader of the far-left **Economic Freedom Fighters**, winning 283 votes to Malema's 44.
- The **Israeli Navy** on June 16, received the second of two new landing craft from a shipyard in the **United States**, with the vessel mooring at the **Haifa Naval Base** after making a lengthy voyage to the country. The US-built **INS Komemiyut** was the Navy's second landing craft, after the **INS Nahshon**, which was received in early October last year.





- **Chinese scientists** have made a significant breakthrough in solar research through the use of their solar exploration satellite, the **Chinese H-alpha Solar Explorer (CHASE)**, which has led to the discovery of a new pattern of **solar atmospheric rotation**.
- In 2023, the **world's nuclear-armed nations** witnessed significant developments in their arsenals, with a notable increase in spending on nuclear weapons. The **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)** highlighted that the United States led global expenditures, followed by **China and Russia**. This surge in investment underscores a growing reliance on nuclear deterrence strategies reminiscent of the **Cold War era**.
- **State-run Coal India Ltd (COALNS)**, opens new tab is exploring **lithium blocks** in **Argentina** along with a **U.S. company** to secure supplies of the battery material, an Indian source with direct knowledge said on June 18.
- **Thailand** will become the **first nation in Southeast Asia** to legalize **same-sex marriage** after the kingdom's Senate approved a **marriage equality bill** on June 18, with supporters calling it a **"monumental step forward for LGBTQ+ rights."**
- The **United Kingdom (UK)** has overtaken China to become **India's fourth-largest export market** in May 2024, commerce department data showed. The UK was India's **sixth-largest export** destination in **May last year**. While exports to the UK grew by a third to **\$1.37 billion** in May, the shipments to China saw **3 per cent growth at \$1.33 billion** last month.
- According to the **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)**, China has significantly increased its nuclear warhead count, rising from 410 in 2023 to 500 at the beginning of this year. The growth suggests a rapid expansion of China's nuclear capabilities, positioning it as the fastest-growing nuclear power globally.
- On June 19, the upper house of the Tajikistan parliament, **Majlisi Milli**, passed a law prohibiting **"alien garments,"** which primarily targets the hijab and other traditional Islamic clothing. The **lower chamber, Majlisi Namoyandagon**, had passed the bill on May 8. This move has sparked debate among Tajikistan's predominantly Muslim population in the tightly governed ex-Soviet republic.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** announced that India will start an **e-medical visa facility** for **Bangladeshi nationals**. Those who are coming to India for **medical treatment**, India will open a new consulate in **Rangpur, Bangladesh**, to facilitate services for people in the **northwest region of the country**.
- **China's Chang'e 6 spacecraft** has successfully brought **samples from the far side of the moon** back to Earth, marking the first-ever return of materials from this scarcely

seen lunar region. The historic feat signals not only **China's soaring ambitions** as a rising space-exploration superpower but also the next phase of a new space race with the U.S. and its allies to establish outposts at the strategically valuable lunar south pole.

- **Paraguay** has officially become the **100th full member** of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), marking a significant milestone in global solar energy cooperation. The Ambassador of **Paraguay, H.E. Mr. Fleming Raul Duarte**, handed over the Instrument of Ratification during a meeting in **New Delhi with Shri Abhishek Singh, Joint Secretary (ED & MER)** and Head of Depository.
- **Denmark** plans to implement a **tax on livestock farmers** starting in **2030**, making it the first nation to do so. This initiative **targets methane emissions from cows, sheep, and pigs**, which are significant contributors to **global warming**. The goal is to achieve a 70 per cent reduction in Danish greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels by the year 2030.
- **Japan, the Republic of Korea, and United States** began the inaugural execution of exercise Freedom Edge, a **trilateral multi-domain exercise**, June 27. The execution of the exercise was announced at the **Camp David Summit in August 2023** and at the **Japan, ROK, and U.S. defense ministerial meeting**, which took place in June during the **Shangri-La Dialogue**.
- **Turkish Finance Minister Mehmet Simsek** announced that Turkey has been **removed from the FATF 'grey list'** after recent evaluations of the country's progress on **money laundering and terrorist financing**. The decision, declared at the FATF plenary meeting in Singapore, marks a significant milestone for Turkey, which had been placed on the grey list in 2021.
- Former Portuguese Prime Minister **Antonio Costa** has been formally appointed to take on the second highest job in the **European Union**, that of **President of the European Council**. **Ursula Von der Leyen** has been reinstated for a second term as President of the European Commission.

Test
Prime

ALL EXAMS,
ONE SUBSCRIPTION.





Current Affairs Related to States in India

Current Affairs Related to States in India of October 2024

Andhra Pradesh

- To address the **immediate skill gaps in Andhra Pradesh**, Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, and Minister of State for the Ministry of Education, Government of India, **inaugurated a new National Skill Training Institute (NSTI) extension center at the Andhra Medical Tech Zone (AMTZ) campus in Visakhapatnam.**

Arunachal Pradesh

- Kaziranga National Park**, renowned for its iconic **one-horned rhinoceros**, has now gained recognition as India's second-largest butterfly diversity hub. Following Namdapha National Park in Arunachal Pradesh, Kaziranga is home to an impressive 446 butterfly species. This newfound distinction highlights the park's rich biodiversity.

Assam

- In a significant move to fight against child marriage in Assam, **Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma** of Assam has initiated the disbursement of monthly financial assistance under the **Nijut Moina scheme**. This step marks a decisive phase in the government's ongoing battle against this social issue, aiming to provide crucial support to families and empower young girls to pursue their education and well-being.
- The Assam government** has launched an ambitious project aimed at revitalizing 129 beels (wetlands), covering an area of 3,800 hectares, to mitigate flooding and boost fish production in the state. These wetlands **serve as essential water and fishery resources**, offering vital hydrological regulation services, including flood mitigation, groundwater recharge, river flow regulation, and erosion control.
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has sanctioned a **USD 434.25 million loan to support Assam's renewable energy ambitions** by constructing a **500 MW grid-connected solar photovoltaic (PV) facility** in the Karbi Anglong district.

Bihar

- The central government has given its in-principle approval for Bihar's second tiger reserve in Kaimur district. This decision follows a proposal from the Bihar government to develop the **Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary (KWLS) into a tiger reserve.**
- Bihar Chief Minister **Nitish Kumar** inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for a range of development projects totaling Rs 7,160 crore. Among these initiatives are 2,615 panchayat government buildings spread across various blocks in the state and a new panchayat resource center in Sonepur, Saran district.

Gujarat

- To enhance citizen safety, **Ahmedabad Police** is establishing a **state-of-the-art Command and Control Centre** equipped with advanced technologies, marking a significant upgrade in public security measures. This initiative reflects a growing trend in urban policing that integrates modern technology for improved operational efficiency and crime control.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi** laid the foundation stone and **inaugurated projects worth over ₹284 crore** in the Narmada district, which is home to the iconic Statue of Unity.

Haryana

- Nayab Singh Saini** was sworn in as **Haryana's Chief Minister** for the second time, marking BJP's third consecutive term in power in the state. **Governor Bandaru Dattatreya administered** the oath at a ceremony attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Ministers, and NDA leaders. Saini's council of 13 ministers also took the oath. Saini, a Dalit leader from Kurukshetra, led the BJP to victory in the October 5 Assembly elections, **securing 48 seats in the 90-member house.**
- In a significant move, **Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini** has fulfilled his first poll promise by announcing that all government hospitals in the state will **provide free dialysis to chronic kidney patients.** This decision was made during his inaugural cabinet meeting after the BJP's return to power for a third consecutive term, where Saini emphasized the people's mandate against Congress' narrative during the elections.
- Haryana has become the first state to implement sub-quotas** for the Dalit community by **subclassifying the Scheduled Castes (SCs).** The decision follows the Supreme Court's August 2023 ruling, granting states the power to divide SCs and STs for preferential reservations. Haryana's move, backed by a state commission's recommendations, is aimed at addressing the underrepresentation of the **"Deprived Scheduled Castes" (DSC)**, who are more marginalized in employment sectors compared to **"Other Scheduled Castes" (OSC).** The state has divided the SC community into two groups: DSC, which includes 36 castes like Balmikis and Dhanaks, and OSC, which includes castes such as Chamars and Jatavs.
- A Grand Cultural Event** The **International Gita Mahotsav** will be celebrated from **November 28 to December 15, 2024, in Kurukshetra, Haryana**, promising a grand display of Indian heritage, spirituality, and culture. Since 2016, this event has expanded globally, spreading the message of the **Bhagavad Gita** and enhancing Haryana's global presence.





Himachal Pradesh

- Chief Minister **Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu** has unveiled a transformative state government initiative named 'Sankalp', marking a significant step in Himachal Pradesh's fight against drug trafficking and addiction. The initiative was officially announced on October 6, 2024, at an event organized by Divya Jyoti Jagriti Sansthan in the state capital, **Shimla**.
- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu announced on 30th October that the **Durgesh Aranya Zoological Park**, located in the Bankhandi area of Kangra's Dehra assembly constituency, will be the first zoo in India to receive certification from the **Indian Green Building Council (IGBC)**.

Karnataka

- At the second edition of the **Indian Gaming Convention (IGC)**, Shri Priyank Kharge, Karnataka's Minister of Information Technology and Biotechnology, expressed the state's ambition to lead the gaming and animation industry. Kharge stated, "Karnataka has all that is **needed to ensure that we become the gaming and animation capital of not only this country but also of Asia.**" "India—the Next Superpower in Gaming" emphasizes India's growth trajectory to becoming a global leader in gaming.
- On the occasion of **Valmiki Jayanti**, Karnataka Chief Minister **Siddaramaiah** announced that all Scheduled Tribe (ST) residential schools in the state and Raichur University will be named **after Maharishi Valmiki**.

Kerala

- After devastating floods and landslides claimed over 200 lives in Kerala's Wayanad district in July 2024, the **Union Ministry of Earth Sciences** took a crucial step to bolster disaster preparedness by approving the installation of an **X-band radar** in the region. The torrential rains, which triggered a massive landslide in the valley above Punchirimattom near the Mundakkai area, led to catastrophic debris flows, intensifying the destruction.
- **The Kerala Assembly unanimously passed a resolution** urging the BJP-led central government to **withdraw the Waqf (Amendment) Bill 2024**, which was introduced in the Lok Sabha in August and subsequently referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC). The state's lawmakers expressed concerns over the bill, asserting that it could undermine the autonomy of Waqf boards and the management of Waqf properties.
- In a significant move to enhance traffic law enforcement, Kerala's Motor Vehicle Department (**MVD**) **has launched the Citizen Sentinel mobile application**, empowering citizens to actively participate in ensuring road safety.

Maharashtra

- The Maharashtra government granted the status of **Rajyamata-Gomata** to desi cows in the state. This is the first time that such a title has been bestowed on any creature. In a government resolution (GR) passed by the dairy development department, the state specified that the status of Rajyamata will be extended only to desi cows.
- Maharashtra Government Renames Skills University After Ratan Tata. In a significant tribute to the late industrialist Ratan Tata, the Maharashtra government announced on October 14, 2024, that the Maharashtra State Skills Development University will be renamed the **"Padma Vibhushan Ratan Tata Skills University."** This decision honors Tata's substantial contributions to education, skill development, and social causes across India.

Manipur

- The **"Mera Hou Chongba"** festival was celebrated in **Manipur** amidst ongoing ethnic tensions **between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities**. This annual festival serves as a significant cultural event aimed at reinforcing the bonds of brotherhood and harmony among the indigenous communities of the state, highlighting the rich cultural tapestry of Manipur. The festival took place on the **15th Lunar day of Mera Month**, at **Sana Konung and Kangla Uttra** in **Imphal, the state capital**.

Madhya Pradesh

- In a pioneering move aimed at **enhancing the safety of women** in healthcare settings, **Madhya Pradesh** has installed **'pink alarms'** at the government-run district hospital and medical college in **Datia**. This initiative addresses growing concerns about the safety of female staff in public hospitals, a pressing issue that gained heightened attention following the tragic rape and murder of a trainee doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata.

Nagaland

- **The Department of Tourism in Nagaland** is set to celebrate the **25th Hornbill Festival**, marking its **silver jubilee from December 1 to 10** at the Heritage Village, Kisama. Dr. G. Hukugha Sema, Commissioner and Secretary for Tourism, expressed excitement, stating it's going to be a remarkable festival.

Odisha

- Odisha government has announced an increase in the **casual leave (CL)** entitlement for women employees, granting an additional **12 days annually**, effective immediately. This brings their total CL to 27 days, compared to 15 days for male employees.





Rajasthan

- **Aandhi, a small village** located about 43 km from Jaipur in Rajasthan, is making strides towards becoming a zero-waste model through the implementation of green technology interventions. This initiative aims to transform various types of waste such as food waste, agricultural waste, wastewater, and hospital waste generated from local sources, including schools, farms, and community health centers, into valuable resources.

Telangana

- Telangana state government launched the **‘Telangana Darshini’** Program to those government school students to explore historical and tourist sites at no cost. It is also designed **to enrich the educational experiences** of government school students.
- In a groundbreaking initiative to further strengthen the ecosystem for women entrepreneurs in Telangana, NITI Aayog, in collaboration with **Telangana government**, launched the **first State chapter of Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP)**, with WE Hub serving as the nodal organization. To promote and support women entrepreneurs across various sectors, providing them with resources, tools, and a robust network to enhance their business growth.
- **Telangana becomes the third state** to initiate a caste-based headcount, **following Andhra Pradesh and Bihar**. The Telangana government has initiated the process of a comprehensive household caste survey in the state aimed at targeted and equitable resource distribution among all communities. The caste survey aims **to promote targeted and equitable resource distribution among all communities, ensuring justice for weaker sections like OBCs, SCs, STs, and other marginalized groups**.
- In a significant move to strengthen bilateral ties, the **Indo-Turkiye Friendship Association (ITFA)** was inaugurated in Hyderabad on October 16, 2024. The initiative seeks to enhance cooperation in key areas such as economy and trade, culture and tourism, science and technology, and education between India and Turkiye.

Tamil Nadu

- Chennai is set to witness a significant advancement in its public transportation system with the upcoming trial run of the first three-coach **driverless train** for the **Phase II project** of the Chennai Metro Rail. This ambitious initiative, part of a larger **Rs 63,246 crore** investment in urban infrastructure, marks a pivotal step in modernizing the city’s metro services and improving overall connectivity. The inaugural trial run is expected to take place on **October 26**, with high-profile

dignitaries such as **Chief Minister M.K. Stalin** and **Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal Khattar** invited to flag off the event.

Uttarakhand

- **India’s first ‘Writer’s Village’** was inaugurated in Dehradun by former President Ram Nath Kovind, along with Uttarakhand Governor Lt Gen Gurmeet Singh (retd) and Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami. This unique village aims to foster creativity and provide a nurturing environment for writers from across the country, establishing Dehradun as a new cultural hub for literary talent. ([Click here to read article](#))

Uttar Pradesh

- **Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath** unveiled the new **multi-colored logo for Mahakumbh 2025** at an event. Kumbh Mela, recognised by the UNESCO as an ‘Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity,’ is regarded as the world’s largest peaceful gathering of pilgrims.
- Enterprising rural women in **Uttar Pradesh, working as BC Sakhis**, have facilitated **Rs 27,000 crore** in financial transactions over the past four and a half years. BC Sakhis, appointed under a nationwide women empowerment initiative, are part of **self-help groups (SHGs)** providing banking services in rural, unbanked areas. Uttar Pradesh leads the nation in the number of BC Sakhis, followed by Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. These women have earned **Rs 75 crore** in commission, making significant contributions to financial inclusion.
- During the grand **‘Deepotsav 2024’** celebrations, Ayodhya made history by setting two **Guinness World Records** on 30th October evening. In a dazzling spectacle, the Uttar Pradesh Tourism Department, alongside the district administration, illuminated the banks of the Saryu River with over 25 lakh diyas (earthen lamps), creating the world’s largest display of oil lamps.





Current Affairs Related to States in India of September 2024

Kerala

- Kerala has once again secured first position in the **State Food Safety Index (SFSI) 2024**, marking the second consecutive year that the southern state has claimed the spot. The report was released in the inaugural session of FSSAI Global Food Regulators Summit 2024.

Madhya Pradesh

- The **Madhya Pradesh** government, under the leadership of **Chief Minister Mohan Yadav**, has approved a groundbreaking scheme named '**Brindavan Gram**'. This initiative, formally announced on **Janmashtami** (August 26), aims to transform selected gram panchayats into model villages, focusing on cow protection and rural development.

Maharashtra

- **Shri Piyush Goyal**, as he inaugurated the **Akurli bridge on the Western Express Highway in Mumbai** on 10th September, and he stated that this will not just benefit North Mumbai but will benefit the entire city. He is also Member of Parliament from Mumbai North.
- **The governor of Maharashtra Shri. C. P. Radhakrishnan** has announced in the event that Maharashtra state will establish the tribal university for the development of tribal students and for their better future. This university will be established in the **Nashik district of Maharashtra**.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** laid the foundation stone for the **PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel Park (PM MITRA)** in Maharashtra's Amravati.
- **Maharashtra government** approved a proposal to name **Pune airport as Jagadguru Sant Tukaram Maharaj Pune International Airport**.

Manipur

- The **University of Manipur**, in collaboration with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), successfully hosted a two-day '**Training Programme on Human Rights in India**' on **30th August 2024 at the Court Hall, Manipur University**. The event saw participation from over 100 legal experts, academicians, human rights defenders, and students.

Mizoram

- **Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma** officially launched the state's **new flagship initiative, the Hand Holding Scheme (Bana Kaih)**, during a ceremony held at Vanapa Hall.

Odisha

- Recently, the **Mankidia community became the 6th particularly vulnerable tribal group (PVTG) to get habitat rights over forests in Odisha**. The Mankidia are a **semi-nomadic community known for their traditional skill of rope making, trapping and eating monkeys**.

Rajasthan

- The Rajasthan State Cabinet, led by **Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma**, has approved a significant policy shift by **mandating a 33% reservation for women in the police force**. This decision, made on September 4, 2024, aligns with the BJP's 2023 Assembly election manifesto promise to enhance female representation within law enforcement. The amendment to the Rajasthan Police Subordinate Service Rules, 1989, will soon be formalized through a notification by the Personnel department.

Telangana

- The government of Telangana has taken a significant step towards establishing itself as a global AI hub by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **World Trade Centres' Association** for the creation of a **World Trade Centre (WTC)** within the proposed **AI City** near Hyderabad. This strategic move underscores Telangana's commitment to fostering innovation, attracting global investments, and positioning itself at the forefront of artificial intelligence and emerging technologies.

Tripura

- **Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha** launched the '**Mukhyamantri Nagar Unnayan Prkalp**,' a **Rs 530 crore water supply project** funded by the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)**, aiming to upgrade drinking water infrastructure in 12 cities. The project, expected to be completed in three years, will address water needs for over 75,000 families across the state.

Uttarakhand

- In a significant development for the state of Uttarakhand, **Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami** expressed his profound gratitude to the Governor for approving the **Uttarakhand Public (Government) and Private Property Damage Recovery (Ordinance) Act 2024**. This groundbreaking legislation represents a crucial step towards addressing the financial implications of civil unrest and riots in the state.

Uttar Pradesh

- The **Uttar Pradesh government** is set to make a significant investment of approximately **Rs 33,500 crore (around \$4 billion)** to spur growth in the **Information Technology (IT) and IT-enabled Services (ITeS) sectors** over the next five years. The plan aims for a tenfold increase in these sectors by developing technology hubs across **five major cities**: Noida, Lucknow, Kanpur, Varanasi, and Prayagraj (Allahabad).





Current Affairs Related to States in India of August 2024

- The Uttar Pradesh government has announced the **construction of a Vedic-3D museum at Sampurnanand Sanskrit University in Varanasi**, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's parliamentary constituency. This state-of-the-art museum will focus on Indian astrology, astronomy, and Vedic literature. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath made the announcement during his visit to the university, highlighting its role in showcasing the evolution of Vedic literature, including the **16 Sanskars, 64 arts, and 18 Vidya Sthans**, as well as the contributions of Indian sages.
- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister **Yogi Adityanath** inaugurated the **Jatayu Conservation and Breeding Centre** in **Bharivaisi, Campierganj Range** of the Gorakhpur Forest Division. This groundbreaking facility marks a significant milestone in wildlife conservation as the **world's first** dedicated conservation and breeding center for the **Asian King Vulture**, also known as the red-headed vulture.
- **Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath** and **Tripura Chief Minister Dr. Manik Saha** jointly inaugurated the newly built **Sidheshwari Temple at Barkathal in Tripura** on September 16, 2024. Yogi Adityanath also laid the foundation stone for the **Ved Vidyalaya at Chitta Dham, Barakathal, Mohanpur, West Tripura**.

West Bengal

- Recent horrific incident in West Bengal hospital which shook the nation, aftermath of this case West Bengal cabinet proposes to set up a **POCSO (Protection of children from sexual offenses) Fast track special court** to fast track the cases related to these cases.
- The West Bengal Assembly has unanimously passed the **'Aparajita Woman and Child Bill (West Bengal Criminal Laws and Amendment) 2024'**, marking a significant development in the state's legal framework against sexual crimes. This bill introduces the death penalty for individuals convicted of rape if their actions result in the victim's death or leave her in a vegetative state. With this move, West Bengal becomes the first state to amend central laws dealing with rape, gang-rape, and sexual crimes against children.
- **The Kolkata trams**, which have operated **since the late 19th century**, are a testament to the city's rich transportation history. The Kolkata tram is set to be **discontinued soon due to congestion**. However, **one route will still be operational**.

Delhi

- 43 year old, **Atishi Marlena from Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)** will be the **new Chief Minister of state Delhi**. She will replace the AAP supremo and party chief Arvind Kejriwal. Decision was taken in the meeting of member of legislative assembly.

Andhra Pradesh

- The **Andhra Pradesh government** has decided to scrap the **two-child norm** for contesting local body elections in view of the declining fertility rate in the state.
- **Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu** inaugurated 16 industrial projects in Sri City and signed deals worth **Rs 3,683 crore**.

Assam

- the state of **Assam** has officially recorded the presence of **mithun (Bos frontalis)** for the first time. This discovery comes generations after the semi-wild, gaur-like animal began to be reared by tribal communities in the state's hill district of **Dima Hasao**.

Bihar

- The **Bihar government** on August 8, mandated **registration of temples, mutts and trusts**, and directed **all District Magistrates** in the State to ensure that the bodies are registered and details of their immovable assets are submitted to the **Bihar State Board of Religious Trusts (BSBRT)** soon.
- On the occasion of **National Sports Day**, Bihar took a significant leap forward in its commitment to sports development. **Chief Minister Nitish Kumar** inaugurated a trio of state-of-the-art facilities in **Rajgir**, marking a new chapter in the state's sporting history.

Chhattisgarh

- **Chhattisgarh** on August 7, cleared a **long-pending proposal** to notify a **new tiger reserve – the third largest in the country**.

Goa

- the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) launched its first indigenously developed **Pollution Control Vessel, 'Samudra Pratap,' in Goa**. **Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Sanjay Seth**, who presided over the event, emphasized the need for industry partners to contribute towards India becoming fully self-sufficient (Aatmanirbhar) in defense production and a net exporter.

Gujarat

- The **Kakrapar Atomic Power Station (KAPS) in Gujarat, India**, has reached full operational capacity with its **second 700 MW nuclear reactor, KAPS-4**, which started operating at full power on August 21, 2024.
- **Cyclone Asna** has formed over the **Kutch coast in Gujarat** and adjoining areas of **Pakistan**, the **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** said on August 30. The **cyclonic storm – a rare land-originating one in August** and headed to the **Arabian Sea – is expected to move further away from the western coast in the next 48 hours**.





Haryana

- **Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini** made a historic announcement that could reshape agricultural policy in India.

Himachal Pradesh

- The **Himachal Pradesh government** has allocated **Rs 53.21 crore** annually to fund the **‘Mukhya Mantri Sukh Shiksha Yojana,’** aimed at supporting the education and well-being of children from vulnerable families.

Karnataka

- **Kaanu**, a **South Indian Adivasi Knowledge Centre**, will be launched at the **Tribal Health Resource Centre (THRC)** at **BR Hills, Karnataka** on August 25.

Madhya Pradesh

- **IIT Indore** has created advanced shoes incorporating **Tribo-Electric Nanogenerator (TENG) technology**, which generates electricity from human motion and integrates **GPS for real-time location tracking**.

Maharashtra

- The **Maharashtra government** has approved the **Logistics Policy 2024**, aimed at revolutionizing the state’s logistics infrastructure and generating approximately **500,000 job opportunities**.
- The Maharashtra state cabinet on August 6, approved the **426.52-km Wainganga-Nalganga river linking project**, with an estimated cost of **₹88,575 crore**.
- The Maharashtra government has recently declared the **geoglyphs and petroglyphs in Ratnagiri** as protected monuments under the **Maharashtra Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1960**.
- The **Maharashtra Cabinet**, chaired by **Chief Minister Eknath Shinde**, has approved the implementation of a **revised National Pension Scheme (NPS)** for state government employees on the lines of the **Centre’s Unified Pension Scheme (UPS)**.

Mizoram

- At least **42 people have died** and 5,938 houses were destroyed due to disasters in **Mizoram** between March and May.

Odisha

- Odisha has introduced India’s first round-the-clock grain dispensing machine, known as the **Annapurta Grain ATM**, designed to transform the **Public Distribution System (PDS)** for ration cardholders.

Punjab

- **Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann** inaugurated the **‘Punjab Help Centre’** at Terminal 3 of **Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi**.

Rajasthan

- The Rajasthan government has received investment proposals amounting to over **Rs 5.21 lakh crore (approximately USD 62 billion)** in the lead-up to the **‘Rising Rajasthan’ Investment Summit 2024**.

- In a significant move to boost religious tourism and cultural heritage, the Chief Ministers of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh have announced plans to develop a new religious circuit called the **‘Shri Krishna Gaman Path’**. This initiative aims to connect the birthplace of Lord Krishna in Mathura with the sacred city of Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh, tracing the footsteps of one of Hinduism’s most revered deities.

Tamil Nadu

- In a significant judgment, the **Madras High Court** has declared **Section 77-A** of the Registration Act, 1908 **unconstitutional**.

Uttar Pradesh

- The **Green Strategic Partnership between India and Denmark** has led to the creation of the **Smart Laboratory on Clean Rivers (SLCR) in Varanasi**.
- The **Uttar Pradesh government** has introduced the **Digital Media Policy, 2024**, which **incentivizes social media influencers** to promote state initiatives, schemes, and achievements through various online platforms.

Current Affairs Related to States in India of July 2024

Andhra Pradesh

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister **Chandrababu Naidu** launched the **NTR Bharosa pension scheme**, fulfilling a key election promise and bringing hope to millions of beneficiaries across the state.
- Scientists from Hyderabad’s **National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI)** have revealed a historic collision between **India and East Antarctica over a billion years ago**. Their findings, including a hidden ridge in **Andhra Pradesh’s Darsi and Addanki regions**, suggest significant geological shifts. Seismic data reprocessing uncovered Proterozoic sediment layers, shedding new light on India’s eastern coast evolution. Published in the **Journal of Pure and Applied Geophysics**, this research enriches the understanding of ancient Indian subcontinent ties to Antarctica.

Arunachal Pradesh

- A team of researchers from the **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)** has recorded a new species of forest-dwelling horned frog in **Arunachal Pradesh**. The new-to-science **Xenophrys apatani**, recorded from the **Talle Wildlife Sanctuary** in the Lower Subansiri district, has been named after the dominant **Apatani community** in recognition of their ingenuity in the conservation of **wild flora and fauna**.

Assam

- The **Assam Cabinet** has approved the repeal of the **Assam Muslim Marriages and Divorce Registration Act of 1935** through the **Assam Repealing Bill, 2024**.
- The **Ahom dynasty’s Moidams in Assam** have been officially inscribed on the **UNESCO World Heritage List** as **India’s 43rd entry**.





Bihar

- On July 24, 2024, the Bihar Assembly passed the **Anti-Paper Leak Bill** to combat malpractices in government recruitment exams.

Gujarat

- The first confirmed death due to **Chandipura virus infection in Gujarat** was reported as a **four-year-old child from Mota Kanthariya in Aravalli**. The confirmation came from Pune’s National Institute of Virology. The virus, initially reported in north Gujarat, has spread to new areas, raising concerns about a potential outbreak with 14 deaths in two weeks and 26 suspected cases under investigation.

Haryana

- The Haryana Cabinet has approved the launch of the **IT Saksham Yuva Scheme, 2024**, targeting the provision of jobs to 5,000 youths in the first phase. This initiative aligns with the **‘Mission 60,000’ from the 2024-25 budget**, aiming to employ 60,000 young individuals from poor families. Under the scheme, graduates or postgraduates from IT backgrounds will undergo specially designed short-term courses for a minimum of three months.
- Municipal Corporations of Gurugram and Faridabad are all set to establish **two waste-to-charcoal plants**, also known as **green coal plants**, in the two districts at a cost of **₹500 crore each**.

Himachal Pradesh

- The Himachal Pradesh Cabinet gave its approval on July 12, to rationalise the provisions for **zero electricity bills for domestic consumers** by restricting subsidy to **‘one family, one meter’** and interlinking power connections with ration cards.

Jharkhand

- Hemant Soren** has returned as **Chief Minister of Jharkhand**, reinstated after a five-month hiatus that began with his arrest by the **Enforcement Directorate**. His reappointment follows a tumultuous period marked by political maneuvering within the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), which heads the state’s ruling alliance.
- On July 25, 2024, **Union Minister of Coal and Mines, Shri G. Kishan Reddy**, launched the **Vriksharopan Abhiyan 2024** at Bharat Coking Coal Limited (**BCCL**) in **Dhanbad**.
- National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) declared the mica mines of Jharkhand ‘child labour-free’ at an event in **Koderma, Jharkhand**. NCPCR chairperson **Priyank Kanoongo** announced this as the first-ever successful endeavor to cleanse a supply chain of child labour in mica mining.

- The **Jharkhand government** is working on a plan to open eastern **India’s first university for physically challenged students in Ranchi (Jharkhand)** a minister said on June 11. The proposed university will offer **education** according to the needs of students with disabilities. Higher and technical education minister **Champai Soren** directed officials to prepare a proposal to open the university for **physically challenged students in Ranchi**.

Karnataka

- The **Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD)**, a unit of the **Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)**, has identified lithium resources in the **Mandya and Yadgiri districts of Karnataka**.

Madhya Pradesh

- Bhopal**, Chief Minister **Dr. Mohan Yadav** has said that our aim is to make all departments as accountable as possible towards the public. **Lokpath Mobile App** prepared by the Public Works Department is being launched with a view to continuously moving forward on the path of public welfare by adopting a more transparent and accountable working system towards the public.
- Indore** on July 14, set a new **Guinness World Record** in the category of **“the most trees planted by a team in 24 hours”** by planting **more than 11 lakh saplings**. Chief Minister **Mohan Yadav** stated that Indore, already the cleanest city in India and the economic capital of Madhya Pradesh, has now achieved the world record of planting more than **11 lakh saplings in a single day**. The programme was **organised by the state government**.
- Madhya Pradesh has been recognized as the **‘Best Performing State’** under the **Prime Minister SVANidhi scheme**, which supports urban street vendors with collateral-free loans up to ₹50,000. The Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry announced this accolade, with Assam securing the second position in the **‘Best Performing States – Innovation and Best Practices Award’** category.

Maharashtra

- The 15th Agriculture Leadership Awards Committee has announced that **Maharashtra** has won the **Best Agriculture State Award for 2024**. The announcement was made by the committee headed by **Justice P Sathasivam**, former Chief Justice of India and Governor of Kerala.
- In a bid to tackle **unemployment among the youth**, the **Government of Maharashtra** has unveiled the **Mukhyamantri Yuva Karya Prashikshan Yojana** (Chief Minister Youth Work Training Scheme). It **aims** to provide valuable internship opportunities, equipping young individuals with essential skills and enhancing their employability in a competitive job market.





- **Mumbai**, India's bustling financial capital, is set to witness a significant transformation in its urban transit system with the inauguration of its first underground metro, the **Aqua Line**.

Meghalaya

- **Meghalaya** launched State-owned **Hello Meghalaya**, an **OTT platform** primarily for regional languages with a limited reach or small market, on July 11.

Mizoram

- In a significant milestone for India's community radio landscape, **Union Minister** of Information and Broadcasting **Ashwini Vaishnaw** inaugurated the **country's 500th community radio station**, Apna Radio 90.0 FM, at the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (**IIMC**) in **Aizawl, Mizoram**.

Nagaland

- In a significant recognition of its efforts in agricultural development, **Nagaland** has been awarded the title of **best state in horticulture** at the prestigious **Agriculture Leadership Awards 2024**. This accolade highlights the state's commitment to innovative agricultural practices and rural development.

Odisha

- **Jagannath Rath Yatra** is a famous Hindu festival celebrated every year in the **city of Puri, Odisha**. It takes place on the Dwitiya Tithi, the second day of the bright fortnight of Sharad Paksha, a period of increasing moonlight considered auspicious for spiritual activities. This festival falls in the month of Asadh according to the Hindu lunar calendar, usually corresponding to June or July in the Gregorian calendar.

Punjab

- **Justice Aalia Neelum** on July 11, took oath as the **Chief Justice of the Lahore High Court (LHC)** of Pakistan (Lahore), making her the first woman to be elevated as the court's top judge. **Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan** administered the oath of office to her. Punjab province's **first woman Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz** was also present in the oath-taking ceremony.

Telangana

- **Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy** launched a unique programme to provide financial assistance to the **Civil Services aspirants from Telangana**, under which the candidates who qualify for the Mains exams will be provided with **₹1 lakh for preparation**.

- In a significant step towards eradicating tuberculosis (TB), **Telangana** launched the **"Project Swasthya Nagaram,"** a unique model for **TB-free municipalities**, on July 24, 2024, in **Hyderabad**.

Tripura

- **Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha** emphasized the importance of educating the younger generation about the historical background of **Kharchi Puja** and its **fourteen deities**. The inauguration of the traditional festival at the **Chaturdash Devta temple** in old Agartala's Khayerpur on June 14.

Uttarakhand

- The research wing of the Uttarakhand Forest Department established **Uttarakhand's first bird gallery** at the Nature Education Centre, **Jolly Grant, in Dehradun** on July 15. This gallery showcases high-resolution images of Uttarakhand's birds, giving visitors an eye-catching display of the state's feathery inhabitants.
- In a significant stride towards enhancing digital healthcare infrastructure, the Uttarakhand government has successfully integrated its **eSwasthya Dham portal** with the **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)**. This integration marks a crucial step in improving health monitoring and management for pilgrims undertaking the revered **Char Dham Yatra**, while also aligning with India's broader digital health initiatives.
- **July 16**, marks the **official beginning of Sawan** accompanied by the vibrant **Harela festival** celebrated across **Uttarakhand**. This traditional festival holds deep significance for the region's **agriculture and culture**, symbolising prosperity and overall well-being.

Uttar Pradesh

- **Uttar Pradesh (UP)**, the state government has passed the draft for the **Uttar Pradesh Nodal Investment Region for Manufacturing (Construction) Area Bill (NIRMAN)-2024**. This initiative, chaired by **Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath**, is part of a broader strategy to uplift the state's economy to the one trillion dollar mark.
- The **Uttar Pradesh government**, led by Chief Minister **Yogi Adityanath**, has unveiled a major environmental initiative called **'Mitra Van' (Friendship Forest)** as part of the Vriksharopan Jan Abhiyan-2024. This ambitious project aims to enhance greenery along the borders of Uttar Pradesh, including its international border with Nepal.
- The Uttar Pradesh government has secured over **154 defence manufacturing deals worth Rs 25,000 crore**, marking a significant stride in bolstering India's defence production capabilities. These initiatives are part of the **Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor (UPDIC)**, spanning Lucknow, Kanpur, Jhansi, Aligarh, Chitrakoot, and Agra districts.





- **The Forest Department of Uttar Pradesh** has released its latest summer census figures for the state bird, the **Sarus Crane**. The report, unveiled on July 10, 2024, reveals a promising trend in the conservation efforts of this majestic species.
- Uttar Pradesh **Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath** announced on June 12, in Lucknow that the State would be exporting 40 tonnes of mangoes to **Japan and Malaysia**. And for the first time in its **160-year** history, Lucknow's famous **Dussehri** is to be exported to the **United States**. He was inaugurating the **Uttar Pradesh Mango Festival 2024** at **Awadh Shilp Gram**.

Current Affairs Related to States in India of June 2024

Andhra Pradesh

- **Telangana Formation Day** is a momentous occasion celebrated annually on **June 2** in the Indian state of **Telangana**. This day marks the **official establishment** of Telangana as the **28th state** of India on June 2, 2014, after years of **struggle** and **aspirations** for a separate state identity.
- After a decade-long hiatus, **TDP leader N. Chandrababu Naidu** is poised to reclaim the **Chief Minister's position in Andhra Pradesh**, with his swearing-in ceremony scheduled for **June 12 at Kesarapalli IT Park near Gannavaram airport**.
- A day before his **swearing-in** as the **chief minister of Andhra Pradesh**, **TDP supremo N Chandrababu Naidu** has announced that **Amaravati** will be the **sole capital** of the state.
- Three years after vowing to enter the Assembly only as **Chief Minister, N. Chandrababu Naidu** has been **sworn in** for his **fourth term** as the **Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh**. The **oath-taking ceremony**, held near **Gannavaram Airport** in **Kesarapalli** on the outskirts of **Vijayawada**, saw the attendance of key figures including **PM Modi** and **Home Minister Amit Shah**.
- **Janasena chief Pawan Kalyan** was named the **Deputy Chief Minister** in a highly-anticipated move by the **Andhra Pradesh government** on June 14. The actor-turned-politician has also been allocated the **Panchayat Raj and Rural Development, Environment, Forests, and Science and Technology** portfolios in the **Chandrababu Naidu-led government**.
- **Telugu Desam Party's** Narsipatnam MLA **C. Ayyanna Patrudu** was elected unanimously as the **Speaker of the 16th Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly** on June 22, 2024. Mr. Ayyanna Patrudu's election was a mere formality as no other MLA filed a nomination for the **Speaker's post** to challenge him.

Arunachal Pradesh

- **Pema Khandu** of the **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)** took the oath as the **Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh** for the third consecutive time.
- **Tesam Pongte** was unanimously elected as the **Speaker of the 8th Arunachal Pradesh Assembly** on June 15. **Pro-tem Speaker Ninong Ering** announced that **Pongte** was elected unopposed as the **Speaker of the Assembly**.

Assam

- The central government has approved Assam's proposal to establish a new Indian Institute of Management (IIM) in Kamrup district. **Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma** announced the **"in-principle approval"** from the **Ministry of Education**, with IIM Ahmedabad slated to mentor the new institution.

Bihar

- India has added **two bird sanctuaries from Bihar, Nagi and Nakti** – to the **'Ramsar Sites'** list, taking the tally to 82. The newest 'Wetlands of International Importance', both man-made reservoirs situated in the **Jhajha forest range of Jamui District in Bihar**, were added to **Ramsar Sites** as part of World Environment Day, observed annually on June 5

Haryana

- In a bid to bolster cyber security awareness, **Zupee**, India's largest skill-based Ludo platform, has partnered with Gurugram Cyber Police for the 11th edition of the **Cyber Security Summer Internship Program**, titled **'Cyber Warriors'**. The month-long internship aims to train selected candidates in cyber security under the guidance of experts, fostering responsible digital citizenship and tackling real-world cyber threats.
- **Haryana Chief Secretary T V S N Prasad** announced the launch of a **Rs 10,000-crore project** funded by the World Bank to address **air pollution in the state**. The **Haryana Clean Air Project for Sustainable Development** will be rolled out in phases, starting with districts in the National Capital Region (NCR).
- **Nayab Singh Saini** announced that the reservation for the backward classes in **Group-A and Group-B posts**, currently at **15 per cent**, will be increased to **27 per cent**, **"in line with the Central government's policy"**. Saini was addressing a gathering at **'OBC Morcha Sarv Samaj Samrasta Sammelan'** held in Gurugram.

Ladakh

- The **Hemis Festival**, a vibrant celebration of **Tibetan Buddhism**, takes place annually in **Ladakh, India**. In 2024, this important cultural event will be held on **June 16th and 17th**.





Karnataka

- **Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot of Karnataka** inaugurated the **National Yoga Olympiad 2024 in Mysuru**, emphasizing yoga's integral role in Indian culture and its global significance. More than 400 students and 100 teachers from across the country are participating in this inaugural three-day event.

Kerala

- **Kerala's Kozhikode** is all set to host the **Malabar River Festival 2024**, featuring the International White Water Kayaking Championship from **July 25 to 28**. This exciting event aims to promote white-water kayaking in the region and will be held in **Thusaharagiri, Chalipuzha, and Iruvazhinjipuzha**. The high-octane events and pre-events will host over 100 national-level kayakers from India and kayaking professionals from over 20 countries.
- On **June 23, 2024**, Kozhikode made history by becoming the first **UNESCO City of Literature** in India. This prestigious recognition highlights the city's rich literary heritage and cultural significance.

Madhya Pradesh

- **Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav** launched an intra-State air service to promote tourism on June 13 from **Raja Bhoj International Airport** in the state capital Bhopal. It is called '**PM Shri Paryatan Vayu Seva**' and the first flight was flagged off from the capital **Bhopal to Jabalpur**. The service operated by the **Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board (MPTB)** with two aircraft will connect eight cities across the State- **Bhopal, Indore, Jabalpur, Gwalior, Khajuraho, Ujjain, Rewa, and Singrauli**.
- The **Madhya Pradesh government** has completed preparations for its ambitious cheetah reintroduction project at **Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary**. This is slated to be the **second home for cheetahs** in India after **Kuno National Park**.
- The Madhya Pradesh cabinet, led by **Chief Minister Mohan Yadav**, decided on June 25, 2024, that state ministers will now be responsible for paying income tax on their salaries and allowances out of their own pockets. This marks a significant change from a 1972 rule under which the state government bore the tax burden. This decision was approved unanimously during a cabinet meeting held in Bhopal.

Maharashtra

- The **Pench Tiger Reserve** in Maharashtra has taken a significant step forward in wildlife protection by introducing an advanced **Artificial Intelligence (AI) system** for early forest fire detection. This innovative approach marks a new chapter in conservation efforts, combining cutting-edge technology with traditional wildlife management practices.

Odisha

- In a historic move, senior **BJP leader Surama Padhy** has been unanimously elected as the Speaker of the Odisha Assembly, becoming only the second woman to hold this prestigious position. Padhy, a two-term MLA from the Ranpur constituency in Nayagarh district, assumed office unopposed during a special session of the Assembly.

Punjab

- **Punjab Police** in association with the **Border Security Force (BSF)** and Village Defence Committees (VDCs) will carry out a one-week **drive against drugs** in Fazilka district. They will reach out to residents of as many as 42 villages along the India-Pakistan border to gather actionable intelligence about the demand and supply of drugs.

Rajasthan

- **Bhajan Lal Sharma**, the Chief Minister of Rajasthan, has announced an ambitious plan to develop the **Maharana Pratap Tourist Circuit** with an investment of **Rs 100 crore**. This announcement was made on **8 June 2023** during the inauguration of the Maharana Pratap Jayanti celebration in Udaipur, where the **484th birthday** of the legendary Maharana Pratap of Mewar was celebrated on **9 June 2024** (according to the Hindu calendar).

Sikkim

- **Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM)** supremo **Prem Singh Tamang** on June 10 took oath as the **Chief Minister of the Himalayan state** for the **second consecutive term**. The 56-year-old politician was administered the oath of office and secrecy by **Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya** at a function held in **Paljor Stadium in Gangtok**.

Uttarakhand

- The Uttarakhand government organized India's first-ever **astro-tourism** event called '**Nakshatra Sabha**' in **Mussoorie**, the 'Queen of Hills', on **June 1 and 2, 2024**. The inaugural event was held at the **George Everest Peak**, famous for its breathtaking views of the Doon Valley and the snow-capped Himalayas.





Uttar Pradesh

- The **Uttar Pradesh government** has unveiled its plans for the **MotoGP event** as it will be hosted by the city of **Noida from 2025 until 2029** and announced a **collaboration with Spain's Dorna Sports** and the Indian partner which is **Fairstreet sports**. Initially, the event was to **take place in 2024**, but resulted in postponement due to weather conditions and is now slated for March 2025.
- **Uttar Pradesh** is set to establish the **world's first conservation** and breeding centre for Asian king vultures or red-headed **vultures in Maharajganj**. The facility will

improve the population of critically endangered species listed in the International Union for Conservation of Nature's red list **since 2007**. The centre is named **Jatayu Conservation and Breeding Centre**.

- The **Uttar Pradesh government** has announced an ambitious plan to establish a **bioplastic park** in the Lakhimpur Kheri district. This innovative project aims to address environmental concerns while boosting the local economy. Let's explore the details of this groundbreaking initiative.

Union Territories of India

Union Territories of India of October 2024

Jammu and Kashmir

- **Omar Abdullah**, a prominent leader of the **Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC)**, has been sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, marking a significant political transition in the region. Abdullah took the oath of office in a ceremony administered by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. His ascension to the position comes after the National Conference emerged victorious in the recent elections, albeit without the direct involvement of the Congress party, which has chosen to provide external support instead.

Ladakh

- NTPC has teamed up with the Indian Army to establish a **solar hydrogen-based microgrid at Chushul, Ladakh**, aimed at ensuring a stable power supply for off-grid Army locations using green hydrogen. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh laid the foundation stone for this innovative project through video conferencing.

Delhi

- Despite the Delhi government's **"Pink Ticket"** scheme enabling free bus travel for women since October 2019, a recent Greenpeace report reveals that **77% of women feel unsafe on buses after dark** due to poor lighting, infrequent schedules, and incidents of harassment, particularly in overcrowded buses.
- **Delhi government, led by Chief Minister Atishi**, has approved the establishment of special courts dedicated to people with disabilities. This initiative aims to provide fair and swift justice by designing court environments that cater specifically to the needs of individuals with disabilities.

Union Territories of India of July 2024

Ladakh

- The **Department of Posts** has released a commemorative postage stamp at Dras, Kargil in Ladakh, marking the Silver Jubilee of Kargil Vijay Diwas.

New Appointments: National & International

New Appointments: National & International of December 2024

APPOINTMENTS NATIONAL

Person Name	Appointed As	Entity / Place	Key Notes
M.S. Dhoni	Brand ambassador	Eurogrip Tyres	The partnership emphasizes the brand's values of performance, reliability, and safety , aiming to boost visibility and trust . Dhoni's passion for motorcycles and his focus on dependability align with Eurogrip's mission to empower riders .
Jay Shah	Chairman	ICC	Jay Shah, Secretary of BCCI , has begun his tenure as ICC Chairman at 36, becoming the youngest to hold the position. His leadership comes during a pivotal time for global cricket, with key opportunities and challenges in expanding the sport's reach and inclusivity . Jay Shah, Secretary of BCCI , has begun his tenure as ICC Chairman at 36, becoming the youngest to hold the position. His leadership comes during a pivotal time for global cricket, with key opportunities and challenges in expanding the sport's reach and inclusivity .





Person Name	Appointed As	Entity / Place	Key Notes
Devajit Saikia	Acting secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India	ICC	The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) , filling the vacancy left by Jay Shah , who became ICC chairman . Saikia's appointment is temporary until a permanent secretary is chosen. During his tenure, Jay Shah implemented significant reforms as BCCI secretary from October 2019 .
Bhavesh Jain	Managing Director and CEO	TransUnion CIBIL	Succeeding Rajesh Kumar. Jain , previously the Chief Revenue Officer , brings extensive experience from Citi, Kone, and Thomson Reuters . His appointment emphasizes the company's commitment to financial inclusion and digital transformation in India.

New Appointments: National & International of November 2024

APPOINTMENTS NATIONAL

Person Name	Appointed As	Entity / Place	Replaced By	Key Notes
Deepak Agarwal	Managing Director (MD)	National Agriculture Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED)		A 2000-batch IAS officer from the Uttar Pradesh cadre, appointed by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC).
Ashok Chandra	Managing Director (MD) & CEO	Punjab National Bank (PNB)		Recommended by the Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) for the role.
Vipin Kumar	Chairman	Airports Authority of India (AAI)		A 1996-batch IAS officer from the Bihar cadre; previously served as Additional Secretary in the Department of School Education & Literacy under the Ministry of Education, India.
Shashwat Sharma	Managing Director (MD) & CEO	Bharti Airtel		Appointment effective January 1, 2026.
Sumathi Dharmawardena	Independent Chair, Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU)	International Cricket Council (ICC)		A Sri Lankan legal expert with extensive experience in sports corruption investigations; succeeds Sir Ronnie Flanagan.
Praveena Rai	CEO & Managing Director (MD)	Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX)		Assumed office on October 31, 2024, for a five-year term.
Justice Sanjiv Khanna	51st Chief Justice of India	Supreme Court of India	Justice D.Y. Chandrachud	- Sworn in on November 11, 2024. - Tenure: November 11, 2024, to May 13, 2025.
Mara Kocho	Managing Director (MD)	North Eastern Handicrafts & Handlooms Development Corporation Limited (NEHHDC)	-	- Recommended under the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER).
Arvindar Singh Sahney	Chairman	Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)	-	- Heads the nation's largest oil firm.
Amandeep Johl	Chief Executive Officer (CEO)	Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI)	-	- To assume the role starting January 2025.
Itaru Otani	Chairman	India Yamaha Motor	-	- Over 30 years of experience at Yamaha Motor Company. - Focus on strengthening India's two-wheeler market presence.
India and France	President and Co-President	International Solar Alliance (ISA)	-	- Re-elected at the 7th ISA Assembly held in New Delhi.





Person Name	Appointed As	Entity / Place	Replaced By	Key Notes
Mithali Raj	Mentor for Women's Cricket Operations	Andhra Cricket Association	-	In this role, she will focus on scouting and nurturing young cricket talent across Andhra Pradesh , making a significant contribution to the development of women's cricket in the state.
Rahul Bhawe	MD & CEO	IFCI Ltd	-	- Currently Deputy Managing Director at IFCI Ltd; recommended by the Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB).
Harsha Vardhan Agarwal	President	FICCI National Executive Committee Meeting (NECM)	-	- Officially announced at the FICCI NECM.
Nandan Kumar Jha	president	International Mind Sports Association	-	The announcement was made during IMSA's annual general assembly in Sao Paulo, Brazil .
Pankaj Tripathi	Festival Ambassador	Arunachal Rang Mahotsav 2024	-	Recognized for contributions to Indian cinema; represents cultural significance of Arunachal Pradesh.
Balasubramanian	High Commissioner of India	Republic of Maldives	-	1998-batch IFS officer; reflects India's strategic focus in the Indian Ocean Region.
Shri Dinesh Bhatia	Ambassador of India	Brazil	-	1992-batch IFS officer; extensive diplomatic experience across multiple countries.
Dr. Jaiteerth R. Joshi	Chief	BrahMos Aerospace	-	Over 30 years of experience in missile technology and defense innovations.
Dr. Thomas Schinecker	President (effective January 1, 2025)	International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations (IFPMA)	Dr. Albert Bourla	CEO of Roche; Rob Davis (CEO of MSD) will serve as Vice-President.

APPOINTMENTS – INTERNATIONAL

Person Name	Appointed As	Entity / Place	Key Notes
Dr. Jacqueline d'Arros Hughes	Secretary General	World Agriculture Forum (WAF)	Former Director General of the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT); set to take office in mid-November 2024
Ashish Khanna	Director General	International Solar Alliance (ISA)	- World Bank energy specialist selected for the position.
Valdecy Urquiza	Secretary General	Interpol	Urquiza will succeed Jurgen Stock , the outgoing Secretary General, and officially take over the role on November 7, 2024 , marking a significant leadership transition at the world's largest police organization.

BRAND & CAMPAIGN AMBASSADORS

Person Name	Brand / Campaign	Key Notes
Sonu Sood	Brand Ambassador and Honorary Tourism Advisor of Thailand	- Recognized for his humanitarian and philanthropic efforts.
Harbhajan Singh & Sania Mirza	Dubai Sports Council has appointed global sports icons as its Sports Ambassadors	The initiative aims to enhance Dubai's reputation as a global sports hub by attracting prestigious international events, promoting sports tourism , and nurturing local talent. The other appointed ambassadors are Khabib Nurmagomedov (Russian UFC champion) and Patrice Evra (French footballer).





CONSTITUTIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Designation / Post	Person Name	Key Notes
Rajesh Kumar Singh	Defence Secretary	A 1989-batch IAS officer from the Kerala cadre; succeeds Giridhar Aramane, who retired after serving a two-year term as Defence Secretary.
K Sanjay Murthy	Comptroller and Auditor General of India	A 1989-batch IAS officer from the Himachal Pradesh cadre, Murthy will succeed Girish Chandra Murmu. Currently serving as the Secretary of the Department of Higher Education in the Ministry of Education, Murthy is set to take over the crucial role of ensuring financial accountability and transparency in public expenditure in India.

New Appointments: National & International of October 2024

Designation/Post	Who is Appointed	Replacing Whom
Chief Justice of Delhi High Court	Justice Manmohan	Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma
Director General of Police (DGP), Jammu and Kashmir	IPS Nalin Prabhat	R.R. Swain
Deputy Chief Minister, Tamil Nadu	Udhayanidhi Stalin	-
President of The Indian Newspaper Society (INS)	M. V. Shreyams Kumar	Rakesh Sharma
CMD (Chairman and Managing Director) of RINL	Shri AK Saxena	Atul Bhatt
Director General, Armed Forces Medical Services (DGAFMS)	Vice Admiral Arti Sarin	-
Executive Director (ED), RBI	Aviral Jain	-
Ambassador to France	Sanjeev Kumar Singla	Mr. Jawed Ashraf
Chief of Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU), BCCI	Sharad Kumar	KK Mishra
Deputy Governor, RBI	M. Rajeshwar Rao	-
Vice Chief of the Air Staff	Air Marshal SP Dharkar	Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh
Managing Director, Nestlé India Limited	Manish Tiwary	Suresh Narayanan
Chairman of Tata Trusts	Noel Tata	Ratan Tata
Additional CEO, Government e Marketplace (GeM)	L Satya Srinivas	P K Singh
CMD and CEO, Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC)	Manoj Kumar Dubey	-
Director General, Indian Coast Guard	S. Paramesh	DG Rakesh Pal
MD and CEO, Bandhan Bank	Partha Pratim Sengupta	Chandra Shekhar Ghosh
Ambassador to India, Maldives	Aishath Azeema	Ibrahim Shaheeb
CMD, AI Assets Holding Limited (AIAHL)	Amit Kumar	-
National Brand Ambassador, I4C	Rashmika Mandanna	-
Chief Justice of India (CJI)	Justice Sanjiv Khanna	Justice DY Chandrachud (upcoming)
MD/CEO, Digital India Corporation (DIC)	Akash Tripathi	-
Special Secretary for Internal Security	Praveen Vashista	Sivagami Sundari Nanda
CEO, ACKO Life	Sandip Goenka	-
New President, Indian Chamber of Commerce	Abhyuday Jindal	
New Chairperson of the National Commission for Women (NCW)	Smt. Vijaya Kishore Rahatkar	
Coal Secretary	Vikram Dev Dutt	VL Kantha Rao
Director General of Police (DGP) for Jharkhand	Ajay Kumar Singh	
Google's Chief Technologist	Prabhakar Raghavan	
Chief executive officer (CEO) of JP Morgan India	Pranav Chawda	
New Director General International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)	Dr. Himanshu Pathak	
51st Chief Justice of India (CJI),	Justice Sanjiv Khanna	CJI DY Chandrachud's
Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Sweden	Dr. Neena Malhotra	
Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Axis Bank	Amitabh Chaudhry	
Managing Director (MD) of the National Agriculture Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd	Deepak Agarwal	





Designation/Post	Who is Appointed	Replacing Whom
Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Punjab National Bank (PNB)	Ashok Chandra	
Chairman of the Airports Authority of India	Vipin Kumar	
Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Bharti Airtel	Shashwat Sharma	
New independent chair for its Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU) of International Cricket Council	Sumathi Dharmawardena	

New Appointments: National & International of September 2024

Name	Designation	Replaced By Whom
Air Marshal Tejinder Singh	Deputy Chief of the Air Staff (DCAS) of the Indian Air Force	Ashutosh Dixit
Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit	Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Central Air Command	Air Marshal Ravi Gopal Krishana Kapoor
Bharath Sesha	Managing Director for India at Philips	Daniel Mazon
Alia Bhatt	Global Brand Ambassador of L'Oreal Paris	-
Sharath Kamal	Indian Ambassador of the ITTF Foundation	-
Ajay Ratra	Selector for India's Men Cricket Team	Salil Ankola
Babita Chauhan	Chairperson of the Uttar Pradesh State Women's Commission	-
Aparna Yadav	Vice-Chairperson of the Uttar Pradesh State Women's Commission	-
Charu Chaudhary	Vice-Chairperson of the Uttar Pradesh State Women's Commission	-
Nehal Vora	Managing Director and CEO of Central Depository Services (India) Ltd	-
Randhir Singh	President of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA)	Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah
Tuhin Kanta Pandey	Finance Secretary of India	T.V. Somanathan
Arun Goel	Ambassador to Croatia	Raj Kumar Srivastava
Dr. Vinay Goyal	State Mission Director of National Health Mission (NHM)	K. Jeevan Babu
RS Sharma	Non-Executive Chairperson of ONDC	-
R. Ravindran	Ambassador to Iceland	Mr. B. Shyam
Amrit Mohan	Director General of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)	Daljit Singh Chaudhary
Anurag Garg	Director General of Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)	Satya Narayan Pradhan
Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo	President of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI)	Sh. Raninder Singh
KVS Manian	Managing Director and CEO of Federal Bank	Shyam Srinivasan
Ibrahima Cheikh Diong	Director of Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage	-
Alok Ranjan	Head of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)	Vivek Gogia,
Amit Garg	Head of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy (SVPNPA)	-
Jitendra J Jadhav	Director General of Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA)	-
Girish Chandra Murmu	Chairman of the Asian Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions	-
Sunita Williams	Commander of the International Space Station (ISS)	-




New Appointments: National & International of August 2024

Name	Designation	Replaced Whom
Janet Yang	President of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences	Re-elected for a third term
Sheikh Hasina	Prime Minister of Bangladesh	- (Resigned)
Lt General Vikas Lakhera	Director General of Assam Rifles	Pradeep Chandran Nair
Challa Sreenivasulu Setty	Chairman of the State Bank of India (SBI)	Dinesh Kumar Khara
Amit Singh Negi	Additional Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO)	-
Praveena Rai	Managing Director and CEO of Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX)	PS Reddy
Kamel Maddouri	Prime Minister of Tunisia	Ahmed Hachani
Piyush Gupta	Chief Executive Officer of DBS Group	Succeeded by Tan Su Shan in March 2025
Harish Dudani	Member of Central Electricity Regulatory Commission	-
T.V. Somanathan	Cabinet Secretary of India	Rajiv Gauba
Raj Kumar Chaudhary	Chairman & Managing Director of NHPC Limited	-
Paul Kagame	President of Rwanda (fourth term)	-
Lalitha Nataraj	CEO of Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM)	-
Rana Ashutosh Kumar Singh	Managing Director of State Bank of India (SBI)	-
Sandeep Poundrik	Secretary of the Ministry of Steel	Nagendra Nath Sinha
Vinay Mohan Kwatra	Ambassador of India to the United States	Taranjit Singh Sandhu
Shigeru Ishiba	Prime Minister of Japan	Fumio Kishida
Paetongtarn Shinawatra	Prime Minister of Thailand	Srettha Thavisin- (Elected)
Rahul Navin	Director of Enforcement Directorate (ED)	Acting Director (appointed full-time)
Salee Sukumaran Nair	Managing Director and CEO of Tamilnad Mercantile Bank (TMB)	-
Ashok Kumar Singh	Director General of Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)	-
Satya Prakash Sangwan	Chef de Mission for the Indian Team	-
M Suresh	Interim Chairman of Airports Authority of India (AAI)	-
Govind Mohan	Union Home Secretary of India	Ajay Kumar Bhalla
Amardeep Singh Bhatia	Secretary of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)	-
Ilkay Gundogan (Germany)	Retired from International Football	- (Retirement)
Rajesh Nambiar	President-designate of NASSCOM	-
Deepti Gaur Mukherjee	Secretary of Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)	-
Shikhar Dhawan	Retired from International Cricket	- (Retirement)
Laurent Freixe	Chief Executive Officer of Nestlé	Mark Schneider
Chirag Paswan	National President of Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas)	Re-elected
Arun Agarwal	Chairman of Texas Economic Development Corporation (TEDC)	-
Sanjeev Raina	Additional Director General (ADG) in the India-China LAC guarding force	-
Sindhu Gangadharan	Chairperson of NASSCOM	-
Jay Shah	Chair of the International Cricket Council (ICC)	Greg Barclay
B Srinivasan	Director General of National Security Guard (NSG)	Nalin Prabhat





Name	Designation	Replaced Whom
Satish Kumar	Chairman & CEO of Railway Board	Jaya Verma Sinha
Vice Admiral Rajesh Dhankhar	Director General of Project Seabird	Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti
Fatemeh Mohajerani	Government Spokesperson of Iran	First woman in the role
Subhasri	Managing Director and CEO of Shriram Capital	-
Daljit Singh Chaudhary	Director General of Border Security Force (BSF)	Nitin Agarwal (Incumbent)
Rajwinder Singh Bhatti	Director General of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)	-
Dr. T.V. Somanathan	Cabinet Secretary of the Government of India	Rajiv Gauba
B. Srinivasan	Director General NSG	Nalin Prabhat
Shri Parvathaneni Harish	Indian Ambassador to the United Nations	Ruchira Kamboj

New Appointments: National & International of July 2024

Name	Designation	Replaced By
Ravi Agrawal	Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)	Nitin Gupta
Challa Sreenivasulu Setty	Chairman of State Bank of India (SBI)	Dinesh Khara
Akhilesh Pathak	Chief General Manager (CGM) of Southern Region Transmission System-I (SRTS-I)	-
Riyan Parag and Nitish Kumar Reddy	Brand Ambassadors for Puma India	-
Dr. BN Gangadhar	Head of the National Medical Commission	S. C. Sharma
Rajinder Khanna	Additional National Security Adviser (NSA)	-
T V Ravichandran and Pavan Kapoor	Deputy National Security Advisers (NSA)	-
Naveen Chandra Jha	Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of SBI General Insurance	Kishore Kumar Poludasu
Justice Sheel Nagu	Chief Justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court	Justice GS Sandhwalia (Acting)
Smt. Charulatha S Kar	Executive Director (ED) of the Reserve Bank of India	-
Dhirendra K Ojha	Principal Spokesperson of the central government	Sheyphalli B Sharan
Siddhartha Mohanty	Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of LIC	-
Justice Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi	Chief Justice of the Jharkhand High Court	Sanjaya Kumar Mishra
Elisa de Anda Madrazo	President of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)	T. Raja Kumar
Uday Umesh Lalit	Chairman of the search and selection committee for vice-chancellors in West Bengal's universities	-
Satyanarayan Goel	Chairman and Managing Director of Indian Energy Exchange (IEX)	-
Govind Singh	Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Utkarsh Small Finance Bank	-
Prof. (Dr.) Soumya Swaminathan	Principal Adviser for the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme	-
Rajat Sharma	President of the News Broadcasters & Digital Association (NBDA)	Avinash Pandey
PV Sindhu	Investor and Brand Ambassador for Hoop	-
Robert Jerard Ravi	Chairman and Managing Director of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)	-





Name	Designation	Replaced By
Arun Kumar Bansal	Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Paytm Payments Bank	-
Rajeev Kumar	Director General of Police (DGP) of West Bengal	Sanjoy Mukherjee
Justice N Kotiswar Singh and Justice R Mahadevan	Judges of the Supreme Court	-
Manoj Saunik	Chairman of the Maharashtra Real Estate Regulatory Authority (MahaRERA)	Ajoy Mehta
Georges Elhedery	CEO of HSBC Holdings Plc	-
Ursula von der Leyen (Re-elected)	President of the European Union's executive commission	-
Vivek Johri	Chairman, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)	-
Vinay Kwatra	India's Ambassador to the United States	Taranjit Sandhu
Preeti Sudan	Chairman of UPSC	Manoj Soni
Sanjeev Krishan (Re-elected)	Chairperson of PwC India	-
Ronald L. Rowe Jr.	Acting Chief of the US Secret Service	Kimberly Cheatle
Krishnan Venkat Subramanian	Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of Federal Bank	Shyam Srinivasan
CMA Bibhuti Bhusan Nayak	67th President of ICAI for the 2024-2025 term	Ashwin Dalwadi
Nita Ambani	IOC representation from India	-
Hargobinder Singh Dhaliwal	Director General of Police of Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Devesh Chandra Srivastav (Incumbent)
Shekhar Kapur	Festival Director for the International Film Festival of India (IFFI)	-

New Appointments: National & International of June 2024

Name	Designation	Replaced By
PV Sindhu	Brand Ambassador of Greenday's 'Better Nutrition'	-
Sushil Kumar Singh	Chairman of Deendayal Port Trust	S K Mehta
Rakesh Mohan Joshi	Vice-Chancellor of Indian Institute of Foreign Trade	-
Kamal Kishore Soan	Director General of Employees' State Insurance Corporation	-
Aditya Roy Kapur	Brand Ambassador for Bisleri Limonata	N/A
Sameer Bansal	Managing Director & CEO of PNB MetLife India Insurance	Ashish Srivastava
Raj Priy Singh	Director in Department of Rural Development	N/A
InderPal Singh Bindra	Secretary of Competition Commission of India	Anupama Anand
Abhijit Kishore	Chairman of Cellular Operators' Association of India	Pramod K Mittal
Lt Gen Waker-Uz-Zaman	Army Chief of Bangladesh	General SM Shafiuddin Ahmed S
Prem Prabhakar	Managing Director & CEO of SBICAP Ventures Limited	-
Dr Kapil Dua	President of Asian Association of Hair Restoration Surgeons	-
Ajit Doval	National Security Adviser (NSA)	-
P K Mishra	Principal Secretary to Prime Minister	-
Ajith Kumar KK	Managing Director & CEO of Dhanlaxmi Bank	J. K. Sivan
Rajeev Krishnamuralilal Agarwal	Non-executive Independent Director of Paytm	Neeraj Arora





Name	Designation	Replaced By
Ashwani Kumar	Commissioner of Municipal Corporation of Delhi	Gyanesh Bharati
Girish Tanti	Chairman of Global Wind Energy Council India	-
Sudhakararao Papa	Director (Enterprise) of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited	V Ramesh
Manoj Jain	Chairman and Managing Director of Bharat Electronics Limited	-
Atul Kumar Chaudhary	Secretary of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India	V Raghunandan
Rear Admiral Nelson D'Souza	Commandant of Military Institute of Technology	Air Vice Marshal Vivek Blouria
Pradeep Singh Kharola	Director General of National Testing Agency	Subodh Kumar Singh
Paul Thomas	Chairperson of Sa-Dhan	-
Gaurav Banerjee	Managing Director & CEO of Sony Pictures Networks India	N. P. Singh
Anuj Tyagi	Managing Director & CEO of HDFC ERGO General Insurance	-
Girija Subramanian	Chairman and Managing Director of New India Assurance	Neerja Kapur
Lt Gen NS Raja Subramani	Vice Chief of Army Staff	Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi
Mrs. Aksha Mohit Kamboj	Vice President of India Bullion Jewellers Association	N/A
Mark Rutte	Secretary General of NATO	Jens Stoltenberg
Kapil Dev	President of Professional Golf Tour of India	HR Srinivasan
Vikram Misri	Foreign Secretary	Vinay Mohan Kwatra

Agreements/Memorandum of Understandings

Agreements/Memorandum of Understandings of December 2024

MoUs WITH COUNTRY

Country	MoU's With	Field/Purpose
India	Kuwait	Established a Joint Commission for Cooperation (JCC) to review and enhance bilateral relations through regular engagements.
Nepal	China	Signed the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) Cooperation Framework to improve connectivity through infrastructure projects like railways and telecommunications.

MoUs BETWEEN ORGANIZATION

Organization	MoU's With	Field/Purpose
Flipkart	Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)	Boosting tech startups in India by mentoring and investing in early-stage ventures through initiatives like Flipkart Leap and Ventures.

Agreements/Memorandum of Understandings of November 2024

MoUs WITH COUNTRY

Country	MoU's With	Field/Purpose
India	Russia	Jointly manufacture the Pantsir air defence missile-gun system, a major step in advancing India's Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative in the defense sector. The agreement was formalized between Bharat Dynamics Ltd (BDL) and Russia's Rosoboronexport (ROE).
India	Algeria	Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on defense cooperation during Gen. Anil Chauhan's visit to Algeria, strengthening bilateral defense ties.





Country	MoU's With	Field/Purpose
IREL (India) Limited	Kazakhstan's Ust-Kamenogorsk Titanium and Magnesium Plant	IREL (India) Limited and Kazakhstan's Ust-Kamenogorsk Titanium and Magnesium Plant JSC have signed a joint venture agreement to form IREUK Titanium Limited. The new venture will focus on producing titanium slag in Odisha, India, marking a significant Indo-Kazakh collaboration in the titanium production sector.
India	Riyadh Design Law Treaty	India has signed the Riyadh Design Law Treaty (DLT) , a landmark agreement adopted by WIPO member states after nearly 20 years of negotiations . The treaty aims to harmonize industrial design registration procedures globally, enhancing accessibility and efficiency for applicants and promoting equitable access to intellectual property (IP) protection across jurisdictions.
India	United Kingdom	India and the United Kingdom have signed a framework agreement to co-design and co-produce electric propulsion systems for future warships, strengthening their strategic defense collaboration . This initiative aligns with the broader India-UK partnership and focuses on indigenous development of advanced naval technologies. The Statement of Intent (Sol) outlines the roadmap for collaboration, particularly for projects like Landing Platform Docks to be built in Indian shipyards.

MoUs BETWEEN ORGANIZATION

Organization	MoU's With	Field/Purpose
Indian Railways	Switzerland's Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications (DETEC)	Indian Railways has renewed its Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Switzerland's Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications (DETEC) to deepen technical collaboration, targeting infrastructure modernization and operational efficiency.
Nvidia	SoftBank Corp	Unveiled the world's first AI and 5G-integrated telecom network, 5G AI-RAN , which transforms base stations into AI-powered computing hubs. This innovation, launched through the AI-RAN Alliance at Mobile World Congress, marks a major leap in telecom technology by enabling simultaneous management of AI and 5G operations.
Cairn Oil & Gas	Vedanta Group	Cairn Oil & Gas, part of Vedanta Group, has become the first oil and gas producer in India to join the UN Environment Programme's Oil & Gas Methane Partnership (OGMP) 2.0. This commitment to reducing methane emissions marks a significant step toward enhancing environmental sustainability in the sector.
Tata Power	Druk Green Power Corporation Ltd (DGPC)	Tata Power has formed a strategic partnership with Druk Green Power Corporation Ltd (DGPC) to develop at least 5,000 MW of clean energy capacity in Bhutan . This collaboration focuses on harnessing Bhutan's hydropower potential to enhance energy security and sustainability in the region. The initiative supports Bhutan's vision to diversify its energy portfolio and improve regional energy integration .
Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd	H2Global Stiftung	Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd (SECI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with H2Global Stiftung under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) . This partnership focuses on promoting Green Hydrogen initiatives, facilitating knowledge exchange on market mechanisms, and fostering cooperation between India and international stakeholders.
Tata Power	Asian Development Bank	Tata Power , a leading integrated power company in India, has signed a \$4.25 billion MoU with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to finance various clean energy projects , advancing sustainable energy initiatives.





Organization	MoU's With	Field/Purpose
Institute of Chartered Accountants of India	Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)	The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) has signed an MoU with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to promote commerce-based skill courses , particularly in the Banking, Financial Services, and Insurance (BFSI) sector. The collaboration aims to equip students with industry-aligned competencies , enhancing employability and bridging the gap between academic learning and professional requirements .

Agreements/Memorandum of Understandings of October 2024

- **The United Kingdom and Mauritius** reached an historical agreement to cede **sovereignty of the Chagos Islands**, a strategically significant archipelago in the Indian Ocean to hand over to Mauritius. The agreement allows Mauritius to regain sovereignty while ensuring the continued operation of the U.S. military base on Diego Garcia.
- **The Department of Posts (DoP)**, with its deep reach, and Amazon, one of the world's largest e-commerce companies, together seek to **empower India's growing e-commerce sector by enhancing logistical capabilities**, supporting job creation, and contributing to economic growth, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).
- **Nepal, India, and Bangladesh** have recently entered into a significant **tripartite agreement** aimed at facilitating cross-border electricity trade, marking a notable step in regional energy cooperation. This agreement allows Nepal to export its surplus electricity to Bangladesh via India during the rainy season, specifically from June 15 to November 15 each year. In the initial phase, **Nepal is set to export 40 MW** of hydroelectricity, leveraging India's infrastructure for transmission. The agreed rate per unit of electricity is fixed at 6.4 cents, with Nepal expected to generate approximately **USD 9.2 million** annually from this trade.
- India has extended significant financial aid to the Maldives by signing a **\$750 million currency swap agreement** to ease the country's foreign exchange crisis. This includes a **\$400 million swap** and an additional **₹3,000 crore (\$357 million)** under the SAARC Currency Swap Framework, available until 2027. The agreement was sealed during a meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and **Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu**, who is on a five-day visit to India. Both leaders discussed key economic and security collaborations, adopting a **"vision statement"** that reinforces their partnership.
- The Uttarakhand Madrasa Education Board (**UMEB**) has **proposed making Sanskrit a compulsory subject in 416 madrasahs across the state**. This initiative aims to enhance the educational curriculum and support the academic growth of students.
- **India and Mauritania** have taken a significant step towards enhancing their bilateral relations by signing **four Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)** during Indian President **Droupadi Murmu's visit** to the North African

- country. This visit, a historic moment in Indo-African diplomacy, marked the first time an Indian president set foot in **Mauritania**, as part of President Murmu's three-nation tour, which also includes **Algeria** and **Malawi**.
- During the visit, **four MoUs** were signed between India and Mauritania, aiming to enhance collaboration in multiple areas. These MoUs focused on:
 1. **Training of Diplomats** – Establishing a framework for capacity-building and exchange of knowledge between the foreign services of both countries.
 2. **Cultural Exchange** – Fostering mutual understanding and appreciation through cultural programs, exhibitions, and artist exchanges.
 3. **Visa Exemption** – Offering visa exemptions for diplomatic and official passport holders to facilitate smooth diplomatic engagements.
 4. **Foreign Office Consultations** – Enhancing regular consultations between the foreign offices of both nations to ensure continuous dialogue on bilateral and international issues.
 - **India and Colombia** have signed an **Audio-Visual Co-Production Agreement** on October 15, 2024, to enhance collaboration in the film industries of both nations. This agreement, signed by **Dr. L. Murugan, India's Minister of State** for Information & Broadcasting, and **Jorge Enrique Rojas Rodriguez, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia**, marks a significant step in deepening cultural ties and cooperation across various sectors. The partnership aims to pool creative and technical resources, enabling filmmakers from both countries to collaborate on film projects, thereby expanding their markets and promoting goodwill.
 - India and Germany are set to sign a pact next week to facilitate the **movement of workers and recognize skills between the two countries**. Through the agreement, skilled professionals here can be easily absorbed by German industry, sources familiar with the development.
 - **India and Pakistan** have agreed to renew their pact on the **Kartarpur Sahib Corridor for an additional five years**.
 - In a significant step to bolster **entrepreneurship in India's Northeast**, the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Shillong has partnered with the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI). Through its **IIM Shillong Foundation for Incubation and Enterprise (IIMSFI)**, this collaboration introduces a structured entrepreneurship training and incubation programme.





- **The Election Commission of India** signed an agreement for electoral cooperation with **Uzbekistan's central poll body**. This agreement was formalized during Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar's visit to Tashkent, where he is serving as an international observer for the upcoming elections scheduled for October 27.
- Indian Railways has renewed its **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with Switzerland's Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications (DETEC) to deepen technical collaboration, targeting infrastructure modernization and operational efficiency.

Agreements/Memorandum of Understandings of September 2024

- **Bisleri International Pvt. Ltd.** has partnered with the **Government of Goa to improve waste management in Mormugao, Vasco**. This collaboration was solidified during the Green Goa Summit 2024, where a Letter of Intent (LOI) was exchanged between Bisleri and the Goa State Pollution Control Board, with the presence of **Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant**. The partnership aims to enhance plastic waste management under Bisleri's CSR initiative, '**Bottles for Change**,' focusing on sustainable development and environmental stewardship.
- The 2024 **Chief Science Advisers' Roundtable (CSAR)** is scheduled for September 6, 2024, at UNESCO's headquarters in Paris. This event is a collaborative effort between the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India and **UNESCO's Natural Sciences Sector**. Originally launched during **India's G20 Presidency in 2023**, CSAR aims to enhance global science advisory mechanisms.
- **India and Singapore** have signed multiple agreements aimed at enhancing cooperation in semiconductors, healthcare, and digital economies, elevating their ties to a **comprehensive strategic partnership**. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during his visit to Singapore, emphasized the importance of collaboration for regional peace, stability, and prosperity, while describing Singapore as an **"inspiration" for India's development**.
- In a significant move towards enhancing international cooperation in public sector auditing, the **Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG)** has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **UAE Accountability Authority**. This agreement marks a new chapter in the bilateral relations between India and the United Arab Emirates, focusing on strengthening their respective audit institutions and promoting good governance.
- **India and the UAE** have signed a significant Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for civil nuclear cooperation during **Sheikh Khalid bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan's** visit to New Delhi. The deal, involving the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) and the Emirates Nuclear Energy Company (ENEC), marks a historic step in bilateral relations and reflects a commitment to peaceful nuclear energy utilization.

- **India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)** took a significant step forward in their strategic partnership by signing **five groundbreaking agreements**. These deals, covering crucial areas such as **nuclear energy, fossil fuels, and food security**, were formalized during a high-level meeting between **Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan** and **Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi** in New Delhi.
- **Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC)** and **ExxonMobil** have announced a landmark partnership to develop the world's largest low-carbon hydrogen facility. This ambitious project, set to be located in **Baytown, Texas**, marks a significant milestone in the race to lead sustainable energy production and combat climate change.
- This week **Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Khaled**, on his official state visit to India. He met the **Prime Minister of India Shri. Narendra Modi** and held talks on the different points for the betterment of country development and future of both countries.
- The **National Health Authority (NHA)** and **IIT Kanpur** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the presence of Union Health Secretary Shri Apurva Chandra on 11th September. The partnership aims to revolutionize Artificial Intelligence in health research with an innovative data platform.
- **India and the European Union (EU)** agreed to enhance cooperation in sustainable water management at the **6th EU-India Water Forum** held on the sidelines of the 8th India Water Week, in New Delhi.
- Rashtrapati Nilayam in collaboration with the **Ministry of Development of North-East Region** and the **Ministry of Culture** will host the **first edition of Bharatiya Kala Mahotsav** from September 29 to October 6, 2024.
- The **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)**, under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, held a bilateral meeting with the **Bhutan Food and Drug Authority (BFDA)** during the **Global Food Regulators Summit at Bharat Mandapam**. The meeting focused on implementing the **"Agreement"** signed on March 21, 2024, during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Bhutan.
- In a significant move towards global climate action and sustainable economic growth, the **United States and India** have announced a groundbreaking partnership aimed at boosting clean energy manufacturing. This initiative, unveiled following a meeting between **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** and **US President Joe Biden** in Greenville, Delaware, marks a new chapter in the bilateral relationship between the two nations.





- The **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAPA) of Brazil**. This collaboration aims to **strengthen food safety measures and promote bilateral cooperation in the sector**.
- The **Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA)** licence of the **International Cooperative Alliance (ICA)** was cancelled by the Union Home Ministry for alleged rule violations. The **ICA, established in 1895**, is an apex body representing cooperatives worldwide and has over 1 billion members.
- A memorandum of understanding was signed between **Rubber Research Institute of India (RRII)** and **Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL)** to **enhance the research on using Rubber Process Oils** marketed by IOCL in different tyre and non-tyre rubber products.
- **Tech Mahindra** has signed an MoU with the **University of Auckland (UoA)** to promote innovation in AI, machine learning (ML), and quantum computing. The collaboration will target sectors like healthcare, banking, financial services, insurance, and government, enhancing industry-academic partnerships to boost graduate employability.
- The **Union Labour Ministry and Amazon** have signed an **MoU to leverage the National Career Service (NCS)** portal for boosting job opportunities in India. The agreement, signed by **Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya** and **Minister of State Shobha Karandlaje**, aims to expand job accessibility for the country's youth by providing diverse employment services through the **NCS platform**. The partnership highlights the role of advanced technologies like AI in upgrading the portal to offer a more user-friendly experience for job seekers and employers alike.
- The **Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)** has partnered with the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** to enhance the collection and sharing of critical climate and weather data in **Latin America and the Caribbean**. This collaboration aims to support climate adaptation efforts and improve regional climate coordination.
- Amazon India has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the Ministry of Labour and Employment to leverage the **National Career Service (NCS) portal**, aiming to connect job seekers with career opportunities that match their skills and qualifications. This partnership will help Amazon India and its staffing agencies post job openings, source candidates from the NCS portal, and provide better access to job opportunities across India.
- **India and Uzbekistan** have signed a **Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT)** aimed at boosting investor confidence and enhancing economic cooperation between the two nations. The treaty was formalized by **Indian Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** and **Uzbekistan's Deputy Prime Minister Khodjayev Jamshid Abdulkhakimovich in Tashkent**. This BIT assures protection for investors from both countries, providing a minimum standard of treatment and non-discrimination while facilitating dispute resolution through arbitration.

Agreements/Memorandum of Understandings of August 2024

- In a significant move towards **disaster preparedness**, the **State Government and SBI General Insurance** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** for Disaster Risk Transfer Parametric Insurance Solution (DRTPS).
- **India and New Zealand** have signed a **Bilateral Customs Cooperation Arrangement** to facilitate easier trade between the two nations.
- The Ministry of External Affairs (**MEA**) and NewSpace India Limited (**NSIL**), the **commercial arm of ISRO**, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to facilitate the launch of Nepal's Munal satellite.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) was signed between the **National Health Authority (NHA)** and **Maharashtra University of Health Sciences (MUHS)** in the presence of Union Health Minister, **Shri J P Nadda**, on August 13.
- Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, **MSME** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding, **MoU** with the Small Business Administration (**SBA**) of the Government of the United States of America to promote Cooperation on Small and Medium-size Enterprises (**SMEs**).
- The **Indian Navy** has signed a significant **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **BEML Ltd.**, a leading defence and heavy engineering manufacturer, on **August 20, 2024**.
- Khadi and Village Industries Commission (**KVIC**), Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (**MSME**) signed an important **MoU** with the Department of Posts working under the Ministry of Communications at **KVIC, Rajghat New Delhi office** on August 20.
- The **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)**, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Government of India and Public Service Department, Prime Minister's Department, **Government of Malaysia** signed **MoU**.
- **GAIL (India) Limited** and **US-based Petron Scientech Inc** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to explore the development of a **500 Kilo Tonne per Annum (KTA) bio-ethylene** plant in India.
- In a significant development, the **Central Institute of Fisheries Education (ICAR-CIFE)** and the Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Cooperative Management (**VAMNICOM**) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on **August 26, 2024**.
- The **United States and Peru** have signed an **agreement** to enhance cooperation in the sector of critical minerals. The memorandum, **signed in Lima**. It aims to boost governance, investment, and global supply chain security for critical mineral resources.





- **India and Malaysia** have very close **political, economic and socio-cultural relations**. To further strengthen this relationship, **India and Malaysia** have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)**.
- **National Security Adviser** to the Prime Minister of India, **Ajit Doval**, participated in the signing of the Founding Documents of the **Colombo Security Conclave**. The signing event marked a significant step in regional security collaboration among India, Maldives, Mauritius, and Sri Lanka.

Agreements/Memorandum of Understandings of July 2024

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has entered into a **\$60 million** financing agreement with **Aadhar Housing Finance Limited (AHFL)** to provide housing loans to women in India. The initiative aims to address the shortage of financing in the **low-income and affordable housing segment**. Half of the funds will be deployed in Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal.
- The **Philippines and Japan** have taken a big step in their security relationship. They signed a new deal that allows their military forces to enter each other's countries more easily. This comes at a time when there are growing concerns in the Indo-Pacific region.
- The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) has initiated talks with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) to develop an **AI Audit Tool** aimed at overseeing corporate India and detecting frauds. **ICAI President Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal** has confirmed that a proposal has been sent to **MeitY Secretary Krishnan**.
- The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the **M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF)** have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** aimed at enhancing livelihood opportunities among rural, tribal, and farming communities in India. This collaboration aims to leverage CSIR's technological innovations and MSSRF's grassroots outreach to empower marginalized groups.
- The **India-Taiwan Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA)** for Organic Products, effective from **July 8, 2024**, aims to enhance trade by allowing certified organic products from each country to enter the other's market. India's **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** and Taiwan's Agriculture and Food Agency are the respective implementing agencies for this landmark agreement.

- The government and Netflix India have partnered to create opportunities for voice-over artists, especially women, to enhance their skills and find better opportunities in the media and entertainment sector. The **National Film Development Corporation (NFDC)** and Netflix India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to launch "**The Voicebox**," a program to train voice-over artists in **multiple languages** including English, Hindi, Marathi, Bengali, Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu, and Gujarati.
- The **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** announced the signing of a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, for the establishment of the 'BIS Standardization Chair Professor' at the latter. This initiative **formalised on July 3, 2024**, marks a significant **step towards institutionalising** BIS's collaboration with leading academic and research establishments across India.
- In a significant step towards developing Indigenous technology, the **Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT)**, signed an agreement with the Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee (IIT Roorkee) and Indian Institute of Technology, **Mandi (IIT Mandi)**.
- India is hosting the **World Heritage Committee Meeting** for the first time. It takes place from **21 to 31 July 2024**, at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.
- **Singapore** has reclaimed its title as the **world's most powerful passport**, offering visa-free access to a record **195 global destinations** according to the **Henley Passport Index**.
- On July 26, 2024, India and the United States signed their first-ever Cultural Property Agreement (CPA) during the 46th World Heritage Committee meeting at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**.

Agreements/Memorandum of Understandings of June 2024

- In a significant partnership, Finnish telecom giant **Nokia** and **Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV)** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to jointly explore advancements in **5G and 6G communications**, specifically targeting transportation and logistics sectors. The agreement, signed in the presence of **Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Chancellor of GSV**, aims to leverage Nokia's expertise in telecommunications to enhance various aspects of transportation and logistics.
- The **Department of School Education** signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **National Book Trust** to create an institutional framework for the **Digital Library Platform, Rashtriya e-Pustakalaya**.





- In a significant step towards enhancing investment cooperation between India and Qatar, the inaugural meeting of the **Joint Task Force on Investment (JTFI)** took place in New Delhi. Co-chaired by **Ajay Seth, Secretary of India's Department of Economic Affairs**, and **Mohamed bin Hassen Al-Malki, Undersecretary of Qatar's Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, the meeting aimed to fortify bilateral relations and explore avenues for accelerated growth and collaboration across sectors like infrastructure, energy, technology, and innovation.
- In a significant move aimed at addressing the mental health needs of armed forces personnel and their families, the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)** and the Ministry of Defence (MoD) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This collaboration establishes a dedicated **Tele MANAS cell**, the digital extension of the District Mental Health Programme (DMHP), to provide comprehensive, integrated, and inclusive 24/7 tele-mental health services.
- **IIT Kanpur**, in collaboration with the **Centre of Excellence for UAVs and DFI**, has unveiled UDAAN, a pioneering drone startup acceleration initiative. **UDAAN aims to empower emerging drone ventures by offering them access to state-of-the-art facilities, expert mentorship, financial support, and tailored business development guidance, fostering rapid business growth.**
- India and the UAE have embarked on a groundbreaking initiative with the introduction of the **Local Currency Settlement System (LCSS)**, aimed at transforming their economic relations. This system allows transactions between the two nations to be conducted in their respective domestic currencies—**Indian Rupees and UAE Dirhams**—thus reducing reliance on intermediary currencies like the US Dollar.
- Adani Defence and Aerospace has announced a strategic cooperation agreement with **UAE-based EDGE Group**, aimed at integrating their defence and aerospace capabilities. This partnership will leverage their combined product portfolios to cater to global and regional defence needs, emphasizing advancements in technology and bilateral cooperation between India and the UAE.
- In a significant move to enhance public accessibility to Indian art and culture, the **Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Sansad TV**. This collaboration allows Sansad TV to broadcast **IGNCA's cultural programs** and utilize its extensive archival content. The **MoU was formalized by Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi, Member Secretary of IGNCA, and Mr. Rajat Punhani, CEO of Sansad TV.**
- **Oracle** has teamed up with the **Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation** to enhance IT skills among the state's youth through the **Naan Mudhalvan program**. This initiative aims to provide training and certification in cutting-edge technologies like cloud computing, data science, AI, ML, and blockchain, offering employment-linked opportunities to over 200,000 students.
- The **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** and the State Bank of India (**SBI**) have formalized a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to integrate **SBI's payment gateway, SBlePay, with the eMigrate portal**. This collaboration aims to bolster digital payment services for Indian migrant workers, recruiting agents, and users of the portal.
- The Central Council for Research in Yoga & Naturopathy (CCRYN), in collaboration with Svyasa, Deemed to be University, organized a Conference on **"Yoga for Space" at S-Vyasa University, Bengaluru**, in observance of International Day of Yoga (**IDY**) 2024 with the theme **"Yoga for Self & Society."** This conference brought together experts from various fields to enhance societal health, including astronauts, by exploring the benefits of yoga in extreme conditions and space environments.
- The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) and Mastercard India have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on enhancing **cyber-resilience in India's financial sector**. This partnership aims to leverage the shared expertise of both entities in cybersecurity incident response, capacity building, and advanced malware analysis.
- **Adani Defence & Aerospace** has signed an agreement with **Thales Group** to manufacture 70mm rockets locally. This strategic collaboration aligns with the Indian government's **"Make in India"** initiative, aiming to enhance self-reliance in defence production.

Banking Current Affairs

Banking Current Affairs of December 2024

S. No.	Bank Name	Purpose
1	YES Bank	YES Bank announced the appointment of Manish Jain as Executive Director (Whole-Time Director) , approved by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) . The appointment, effective from December 11, 2024 , is for a three-year term . Jain, who joined the bank in September 2023 , brings extensive experience in corporate and wholesale banking . The appointment is subject to YES Bank's shareholders' approval .
2	Bank of Baroda	BOBCARD has launched the TIARA Credit Card , a premium, women-centric offering designed to empower modern women. Key features include rewards on travel, dining, international purchases, and lifestyle; health perks like free health packages and personal accident cover; and lifestyle benefits with vouchers from brands like Myntra, Nykaa, and Lakme Salon. Additional perks include OTT memberships, movie ticket discounts, unlimited lounge access , and reduced forex mark-up. The card is powered by the RuPay network and comes with a joining fee of ₹2,499 + GST.





RBI News

Current Affairs related to Regulatory authorities		
S.No.	Name	Purpose
1	Lifting of Supervisory Restrictions on Navi Finserv	The RBI lifted restrictions on Navi Finserv after the company addressed regulatory concerns related to loan pricing and lending norms.
2	Increase in UPI Lite Wallet and Per-Transaction Limits	The UPI Lite wallet limit was raised to Rs 5,000 and the per-transaction limit to Rs 1,000 to enhance offline payment capabilities and enable seamless, higher-value transactions.
3	SFBs Allowed to Offer Pre-Sanctioned Credit via UPI	Small Finance Banks can now offer pre-sanctioned credit lines through UPI, targeting underserved groups to improve financial inclusion and provide smaller, short-term credit products.
4	RBI Podcast Series Launch	RBI's new podcast series will focus on monetary policy and financial literacy, aiming to enhance public communication and financial education.
5	Secured Overnight Rupee Rate (SORR)	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is developing SORR as a new benchmark for interest rate derivatives. It is based on secured money market transactions such as repo and TREPS. SORR aims to be robust, trade-based, and resistant to manipulation, aligning with global best practices like SOFR to promote transparency in India's benchmark-setting methodology.
6	Interest Rate Ceilings on FCNR(B) Deposits	The RBI has raised the interest rate ceilings on FCNR(B) deposits to attract foreign capital. Banks can now offer ARR plus 400 basis points for 1-3 year deposits and ARR plus 500 basis points for 3-5 year deposits. This move aims to support the rupee and increase dollar inflows. However, its impact may be limited due to the availability of cheaper global funding options. The relaxation will be in effect until March 31, 2025.
7	MuleHunter.AI	The Reserve Bank of India Innovation Hub (RBIH) has launched MuleHunter.AI, an advanced AI tool to detect mule bank accounts used for illicit activities like money laundering and online financial fraud. MuleHunter.AI leverages machine learning to improve fraud detection compared to traditional systems, addressing the growing problem of online financial fraud, which accounts for 67.8% of cybercrime cases in India.

SEBI News

S.No	Announcement	Key Details
1	SEBI imposed ₹9 lakh penalty on Reliance Securities Ltd (RSL)	Penalty for violating stock broker norms during April 2022 to December 2023, including poor record-keeping, unauthorized terminal use, and lack of office segregation.
2	SEBI clarified digital platforms' SDP registration	Digital platforms are not required to register as Specified Digital Platforms (SDPs). Preventive measures for SDP recognition are voluntary, with no regulatory framework.

Banking Current Affairs of November 2024

S. No.	Bank Name	Purpose
1	State Bank of India (SBI)	Awarded the title of "Best Bank in India for 2024" by Global Finance Magazine during its 31st Annual Best Bank Awards in Washington.
2	Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	Received RBI approval for foreign exchange services, with the 'Authorised Dealer Category 1 licence' to offer a range of foreign exchange products and services.





S. No.	Bank Name	Purpose
3	Solex Energy & State Bank of India (SBI)	Partnered to provide financing options for solar projects under SBI's Surya Shakti Solar Finance Scheme, offering loans up to ₹10 crore.
4	GAIL (India) Limited & VERBIO India	Signed an MoU to develop compressed biogas projects using agricultural residue, supporting rural incomes and renewable energy.
5	Slice & North East Small Finance Bank	Completed merger to consolidate assets, operations, and brand identities, enhancing presence in India's northeastern region.
6	State Bank of India (SBI) & India Exim Bank	Supporting businesses in African countries by addressing the trade finance gap, as discussed during the India Entrepreneurs Forum (IEF).
7	State Bank of India	State Bank of India (SBI) is aiming to secure a \$1.25 billion five-year loan , which would be the largest dollar-denominated loan from India's financial sector in 2024 . The loan, arranged by CTBC Bank, HSBC, and Taipei Fubon Bank , will be used for general corporate purposes.
8	Canara Bank	State-owned Canara Bank is setting a significant target for loan recovery, aiming to recoup approximately ₹6,000 crore from bad loans in the second half of the current fiscal year (H2 FY25) . This strategic goal reflects the bank's ongoing efforts to improve asset quality while building on its recent financial performance.
9	Punjab & Sind Bank (PSB)	Punjab & Sind Bank (PSB) has launched an e-Bank Guarantee (e-BG) facility in partnership with National e-Governance Services Ltd (NeSL), replacing the traditional paper-based process with a fully digital system using e-stamping and e-signatures, enhancing efficiency, transparency, and reducing verification time.
10.	IDFC FIRST Bank	IDFC FIRST Bank, in collaboration with Swift, has launched a real-time tracking service for international money transfers. This service, available on the bank's mobile app and internet banking, makes IDFC FIRST Bank the first Indian bank to offer end-to-end traceability for cross-border payments.
11.	Deutsche Bank	Deutsche Bank has injected ₹5,113 crore into its Indian operations , marking its largest capital infusion into the country in recent years. This move, aimed at funding growth and expanding services across corporate, investment, and private banking, demonstrates the bank's long-term commitment to India.
12.	State Bank of India	State Bank of India (SBI) , in partnership with APIX—a global collaborative platform for financial institutions and FinTechs—has launched the 'SBI Innovation Hub' at the Singapore Fintech Festival from November 6-8, 2024 .
13.	Karnataka Bank Ltd	Karnataka Bank Ltd. has launched two student-focused financial products, 'KBL Peak' and 'KBL Genius' , to support students in achieving academic goals and managing finances. Launched on World Prematurity Day , these products reflect the bank's commitment to India's educational and economic growth. 'KBL Peak' offers education loans up to ₹2 crore , while 'KBL Genius' features a student savings account with free cyber insurance .
14.	State Bank of India (SBI)	State Bank of India (SBI) , the country's largest lender, has successfully raised \$500 million through five-year bonds from international investors. The issuance, conducted through SBI's London branch , received overwhelming interest , with bids totaling \$3 billion , demonstrating strong global investor confidence in the bank's creditworthiness.
15.	State Bank of India (SBI)	The State Bank of India (SBI) marked the centenary of its iconic Horniman Circle Branch with the unveiling of a ₹100 commemorative coin by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman . The event also saw the release of the 5th edition of <i>The Evolution of the State Bank of India</i> , covering its transformation from 1981 to 1996. From just 100 branches in 1920 , SBI now has over 22,640 branches and plans further expansion in FY25 .





S. No.	Bank Name	Purpose
16.	IndusInd Bank	IndusInd Bank and UNICEF have launched a strategic initiative under the bank's CSR program to promote Disaster Resilient Communities and Climate Risk-Informed Administrative Systems.
17.	Punjab National Bank	Punjab National Bank (PNB) has joined the Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials (PCAF), marking a key step in its climate action journey.

RBI News

Current Affairs related to Regulatory authorities		
S.No.	Name	Purpose
1.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	Reported a decrease in India's foreign exchange reserves by \$2.163 billion, totaling \$688.267 billion for the week ending October 18.
2.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	Successfully transported 102 tonnes of gold from the Bank of England to secure storage in India, reinforcing the nation's reserves.
3.	Reserve Bank of India	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) confirmed that SBI, HDFC Bank, and ICICI Bank will remain Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs). Starting April 2025, SBI and HDFC Bank will face increased additional capital requirements. The D-SIB framework, updated in 2023, designates these banks as too important to fail and mandates higher capital buffers for financial stability.
4.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced a new framework that allows Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) to convert their investments into Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) if their holdings exceed the 10% equity threshold in Indian companies.
5.	Reserve Bank of India	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has added 10-year Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs) to the list of Government securities available for non-resident investment under the Fully Accessible Route (FAR). These bonds, to be issued in the second half of fiscal year 2024-25, align with India's growing inclusion in global bond indices.
6.	Reserve Bank of India	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced six amendments to its KYC Master Directions, effective November 6, 2024, to enhance customer onboarding and align with current legal standards. These updates aim to streamline the KYC process, making financial transactions more secure, accessible, and reliable for consumers and financial institutions alike.
7.	Reserve Bank of India	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has increased the transaction limit for UPI 123Pay from ₹5,000 to ₹10,000, benefiting India's 400 million feature phone users. Launched in March 2022, UPI 123Pay enables internet-free digital transactions through IVR, missed calls, and sound-based payments. Additionally, the UPI Lite wallet limit has been raised from ₹2,000 to ₹5,000. Key upgrades include enhanced security with Aadhaar-based OTP authentication, improved payment initiation methods, and standardized tagging for better tracking. These changes aim to enhance financial inclusion and boost digital payment adoption.
8.	Reserve Bank of India	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Maldives Monetary Authority (MMA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote the use of local currencies—Indian Rupee (INR) and Maldivian Rufiyaa (MVR)—in cross-border transactions. Signed by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das and MMA Governor Ahmed Munawar, the MoU aims to enhance bilateral trade, reduce transaction costs, and optimize settlement times, enabling exporters and importers to invoice and settle payments in their respective domestic currencies.

SEBI News

S.No	Announcement	Key Details	Effective Date
1.	SEBI's Proposed Reforms for REITs and InvITs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interest Rate Derivatives: SEBI proposes allowing REITs, SM REITs, and InvITs to use interest rate derivatives like swaps to hedge against rate fluctuations, stabilizing cash flows for long-term projects. 	





S.No	Announcement	Key Details	Effective Date
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fixed Deposits in Leverage Calculations: Fixed deposits may be considered as cash equivalents in leverage calculations for REITs and InvITs, enabling better financial management. • Locked-in Units Transferability: SEBI suggests allowing the transfer of locked-in units among sponsors and their affiliates, similar to promoter rules in listed companies, to provide flexibility while maintaining commitment. • Quarterly Reporting Alignment: Proposed changes require InvITs to report quarterly results based on standalone performance, aligning with REIT standards and increasing transparency. • Nomination and Remuneration Committees (NRCs): SEBI recommends a mix of independent and non-executive directors in NRCs of REIT and InvIT managers, mirroring listed company governance standards. • Definition of Common Infrastructure: Expanded to include facilities like power plants and water treatment systems that serve multiple REIT assets, allowing for more efficient operations. • Liquid Mutual Fund Investments: SEBI is considering allowing REITs to invest in liquid mutual funds for better cash flow management and diversification options. • Public Consultation: SEBI has invited public feedback on these proposals, with comments open until November 13, 2024. 	
2.	SEBI's Proposed Changes to Securitisation Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum Investment Requirement: • SEBI suggests setting a minimum "ticket size" of Rs 1 crore for investments in securitised debt instruments (SDIs), aimed at attracting high-net-worth individuals and institutional investors. • Investor Limit for Private Placements: • Private placements will have a cap of 200 investors; any issuance seeking more investors must be reclassified as a public offer. • Public Offer Regulations: • For public offers, SEBI mandates an offer duration between three to ten days, with aligned advertising guidelines to ensure transparent disclosures. • Dematerialisation of Instruments: • All securitised debt instruments must be dematerialised, enhancing transparency, reducing fraud risk, and simplifying ownership tracking. • Risk Retention and Minimum Holding Period: • Originators must retain a minimum of 10% of the securitised asset pool (5% for assets with shorter maturities) to align their interests with investors. • Clean-Up Call Option: • The clean-up call feature allows originators to repurchase up to 10% of securitised assets to maintain asset quality. • Liquidity Facilities: • SEBI mandates liquidity facilities to address cash flow timing issues, ensuring steady investor payouts. • Redefining Underlying Assets: 	





S.No	Announcement	Key Details	Effective Date
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eligible assets include listed debt securities, accepted trade receivables, rental incomes, and equipment leases. Single-asset securitisation is excluded. Minimum Track Record: Originators must have a minimum of three years of operational experience to engage in securitisation, ensuring market stability. 	
3.	SEBI Abolishes 1% Security Deposit Mandate for Public Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEBI Update: SEBI abolished the 1% security deposit for companies launching public issues under the SEBI (ICDR) Regulations, 2018. Effective Date: The rule is effective immediately, as announced on November 21, 2024. Previous Rule: Companies had to deposit 1% of the issue size with stock exchanges before public issues. Purpose of Deposit: Addressed investor grievances such as refund delays, non-allotment, or non-dispatch of securities. Replaced Mechanisms: ASBA, UPI-based payments, and mandatory demat allotments now streamline the process. Consultation Paper: Proposed changes discussed in February 2024. Applicability: Changes are immediately applicable across all public issues. Implications: Reduces compliance burden, speeds up the public issue process, and removes outdated requirements. Modern Features: Enables digital payments and automated investor grievance redressal systems. Relevant Regulation: Falls under SEBI (Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2018. 	

Other Important Banking Related Current Affairs

- Public Sector Banks (PSBs) reported strong performance in the first half of FY 2024-25, with an 11% year-on-year growth in aggregate business, reaching Rs 236 trillion. Net profit surged 25.6% to Rs 85,520 crore, and operating profit grew by 14.4%.
- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated five "Nari Shakti" branches of Union Bank of India in Bengaluru, Chennai, Visakhapatnam, and Jaipur. These branches are designed to promote financial inclusion and support women entrepreneurs, particularly in manufacturing and services. The initiative focuses on empowering women with accessible finance, skills training, and advisory services, aligning with India's goal of gender-focused economic growth.
- SBI Mutual Fund has become the first fund house in India to exceed ₹10 lakh crore in assets under management (AUM), reaching ₹10.99 lakh crore in the September quarter, up from ₹9.88 lakh crore in June. This milestone positions SBI MF ahead of its competitors, ICICI Mutual Fund and HDFC Mutual Fund, which have AUMs of ₹8.41 lakh crore and ₹7.47 lakh crore, respectively.
- In a move to enhance apprenticeship programs across India, the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** has restructured the **Central Apprenticeship Council (CAC)**, tasked with reforming existing rules and promoting industry adoption of on-the-job training.
- India's smartphone market became the second largest globally by unit volume and third by value in Q3 2024, accounting for 15.5% of global shipments, just behind China's 22%. By value, India's market share rose slightly to 12.3%, up from 12.1% the previous year, surpassing the US, which held a 12% share.
- Canara HSBC Life Insurance** has launched **OmniGen AI**, a groundbreaking **generative AI solution** designed to optimize **risk evaluation** in **underwriting**. Powered by **Amazon Web Services (AWS)**, the system helps underwriters make faster, more accurate decisions by leveraging a comprehensive set of data points. The AI-driven models aim to **reduce errors**, improve **consistency**, and accelerate **policy issuance**.





Banking Current Affairs of October 2024

S.No.	Bank Name	Purpose
1.	IndusInd Bank	The board of IndusInd Bank has approved the reappointment of Sumant Kathpalia as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) for another three-year term from March 24, 2025, to March 23, 2028, pending approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and shareholders.
2.	Federal Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal Bank has signed an MoU with Bhashini, an AI-powered language translation platform, to integrate vernacular language support into its AI chatbot, Feddy. This collaboration, inspired by the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub's (RBIH) initiative for local language banking, aims to make banking services more inclusive and accessible across India. With Feddy now capable of responding in 14 languages, customers will have greater ease in accessing banking services, particularly in their native languages, marking a significant step in enhancing the accessibility of financial services.
3.	HDFC Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HDFC Bank has officially announced the divestment of its entire 100% stake in HDFC Education and Development Services Pvt. Ltd (HDFC Edu) to Vama Sundari Investments for ₹192 crore. This all-cash transaction, valued at ₹9.60 per share, aligns with the bank's strategy to comply with regulatory requirements and streamline its operations following the merger with e-HDFC Ltd.
4.	Bank of Baroda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Announced its decision to sell its Oman operations to Bank Dhofar as part of a broader strategy to rationalize its foreign business footprint. This acquisition will take place on a going concern basis, pending approval from regulatory authorities. The total business of BoB's Oman operations is valued at 113.35 million Omani Rials, with a net worth of 25.54 million Omani Rials.
5.	Axis Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Finance Corporation (IFC) has partnered with Axis Bank to provide a \$500 million loan aimed at scaling up blue finance and green projects in India. This is IFC's first blue investment in the country and the largest climate finance initiative by IFC in India to date. Blue loans focus on funding water and wastewater management, reducing ocean plastic pollution, restoring marine ecosystems, and promoting offshore renewable energy, among others.
6.	Bank of Baroda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bank of Baroda (BoB) has introduced a new 400-day term deposit scheme known as the 'bob Utsav Deposit Scheme', aimed at offering higher interest rates to various categories of depositors during the festive season. This scheme not only provides competitive interest rates for general depositors but also caters specifically to senior and super senior citizens, making it a beneficial investment option for a wide range of customers. The interest rates offered under this scheme vary based on the category of the depositor: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Citizens: The scheme provides an interest rate of 7.30%. Senior Citizens (aged 60 and above): Eligible for a higher interest rate of 7.80%. Super Senior Citizens (aged 80 and above): Benefiting from the highest interest rate in the category, 7.90%. Non-Callable Deposits: Offering interest rates as high as 7.95%, making it an attractive option for customers who do not require premature withdrawal.
7.	HDFC Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HDFC Bank has officially opened its first branch in Singapore as part of its strategy to expand its international operations. Granted a wholesale banking license by the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS), effective from October 15, 2024, the bank aims to offer a variety of financial products and services to residents of Singapore.
8.	Jio Payments Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jio Payments Bank, a subsidiary of Jio Financial Services, has successfully obtained a mutual fund distribution license from the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI). This Category 1 Execution-only Platform (EOP) license enables Jio Payments Bank to distribute the direct plans of various mutual fund schemes, marking a significant step in its expansion within the financial services sector.





S.No.	Bank Name	Purpose
9.	State Bank of India (SBI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Bank of India (SBI) successfully raised ₹5,000 crore through the issuance of Additional Tier-I (AT-I) bonds, marking its first issuance for the current financial year. The bonds, which carry a coupon rate of 7.98%, are aimed at strengthening the bank's capital base and comply with Basel-III norms.
10.	State Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Bank of India (SBI) has been awarded the title of Best Bank in India for 2024 by Global Finance Magazine during its 31st Annual Best Bank Awards, held in Washington, coinciding with the Annual Meetings of the IMF and the World Bank. SBI Chairman CS Setty accepted the award, highlighting the bank's dedication to exceptional services and its role in promoting financial inclusion across the nation.
11.	Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ujjivan Small Finance Bank has secured approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for foreign exchange services, marking a significant milestone in its operational capabilities. The bank has been granted the 'Authorised Dealer Category 1 licence,' allowing it to offer a comprehensive range of foreign exchange products and services.
12.	State Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solex Energy has partnered with the State Bank of India (SBI) to provide financing options for solar projects, targeting commercial, industrial, and institutional customers. Under this collaboration, SBI will offer loans up to ₹10 crore through its Surya Shakti Solar Finance Scheme, aiming to make solar energy more accessible and affordable in India.
13.	North East Small Finance Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fintech firm Slice has successfully merged with North East Small Finance Bank over a year after receiving approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). This merger consolidates their operations, assets, and brand identities into one institution, enhancing the bank's footprint in India's northeastern region.
14.	State Bank of India (SBI) and India Exim Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The State Bank of India (SBI) and India Exim Bank are actively supporting businesses in African countries by addressing the trade finance gap, as highlighted by the South African heads of the two organizations during the India Entrepreneurs Forum (IEF).
15.	IndusInd Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IndusInd Bank has partnered with Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited (TPREL) to provide collateral-free solar financing solutions for Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) in India. This strategic alliance aims to facilitate easy access to solar energy financing, promoting sustainability and reducing operational costs for MSEs.

Current Affairs related to Regulatory authorities

S.No.	Name	Purpose
1.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RBI action: The Reserve Bank of India has barred four NBFCs from sanctioning and disbursing loans for charging exorbitant interest rates. Affected NBFCs: The four entities are Asirvad Microfinance, Arohan Financial Services (MFI), DMI Finance, and Navi Finserv (founded by Flipkart co-founder Sachin Bansal). Ban effective date: The ban will take effect on October 21, 2024, allowing time for pending transactions to close. Monetary policy warning: RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das had cautioned NBFCs and MFIs about prioritizing excessive returns and charging high fees and penalties in the October 8, 2024 monetary policy statement. Supervisory concerns: The action was based on supervisory concerns about excessive weighted average lending rates (WALR) and interest spread over cost of funds. RBI inspections: Detailed inspections of NBFC-MFIs were conducted in the first quarter of the financial year, focusing on pricing policies and interest rates charged to customers.





Current Affairs related to Regulatory authorities

S.No.	Name	Purpose
2.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rupee Resilience: The Indian rupee settled at 83.97 against the US dollar due to active RBI intervention, preventing it from breaching the critical 84 mark. • RBI's Role: The Reserve Bank of India intervened in non-deliverable forwards (NDF) and local spot markets, helping stabilize the rupee amid pressure from foreign portfolio outflows, rising crude oil prices, and a strengthening dollar index. • Key Factors Affecting the Rupee: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Foreign equity outflows from India. 2. Rising crude oil prices. 3. Strong US dollar index. • Forward Premiums: Dollar-rupee forward premiums dropped by 11 basis points to 2.27%, influenced by higher US Treasury yields and better-than-expected US job data. • US Economic Impact: The US added 254,000 jobs in September, exceeding the forecast of 140,000, narrowing the interest rate differential between the US and India. • India's Forex Reserves: India's foreign exchange reserves surged past \$700 billion, supported by RBI interventions and foreign currency assets. • Historical Trends: The rupee has hit new lows over the past two months due to fears of a slowing US economy and declining interest in emerging market currencies. • Future Outlook: The rupee's future trajectory will depend on US economic indicators and Federal Open Market Committee decisions regarding interest rates. • RBI's Market Activity: In FY24, RBI has net bought \$19.2 billion in the spot market, though net dollar sales have totaled \$2.4 billion, reflecting a tightening balance of payments and widening trade deficit.
3.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revised Framework (2024-2027): The RBI, with the Government of India's concurrence, has introduced a revised Currency Swap Framework for SAARC countries for the period 2024-2027. • INR Swap Window: A new INR Swap Window has been introduced with a corpus of ₹250 billion to offer swap support in Indian Rupees, providing various concessions. • US Dollar/Euro Swap Window: The existing US Dollar/Euro Swap Window will continue, with a corpus of US\$ 2 billion for SAARC countries. • Currency Swap Facility: Originally launched on November 15, 2012, the SAARC Currency Swap Facility provides financial backstop support for foreign exchange liquidity or balance of payment crises for SAARC countries. • Bilateral Swap Agreements: The facility will be available to SAARC member countries, subject to them signing bilateral swap agreements with the RBI.
4.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed Aviral Jain as Executive Director (ED) with effect from October 01, 2024. • Prior to being promoted to ED, Jain was serving as Regional Director for Maharashtra. As Executive Director, he will look after the several departments for the smooth functioning of RBI.
5.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Reserve Bank of India on Tuesday said 98 per cent of the ₹2,000 denomination notes have been returned since its May 2023 move to withdraw the currency notes. • The total value of notes of the denomination has reduced to ₹7,117 crore from the ₹3.56 lakh crore on May 19, 2023, the central bank said. • On May 19, 2023, the RBI announced a surprise decision to withdraw the ₹2,000 currency notes. The move was prompted on quality concerns and the denomination introduced after the demonetisation of November 2016 fulfilling its purpose. • The central bank said ₹2,000 notes continue to be legal tender and can be exchanged at 19 issue offices of the RBI either physically or sent by post for a credit into bank accounts.
5.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose of Alert List: Identifies entities unauthorized to operate under the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA) or electronic trading platforms (ETPs) for forex transactions. • Recent Update: 13 new entities added to the list, bringing the total to 88.





Current Affairs related to Regulatory authorities

S.No.	Name	Purpose
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notable Additions: TDFX, Inefex, Ranger Capital, and others now included for unauthorized forex activities. • Consumer Warning: RBI advises consumers to avoid unauthorized platforms and verify any forex entity's authorization status. • Promotion of Unauthorized Services: Entities may promote unauthorized forex platforms or claim to provide training and advisory services, potentially misleading users. • Verification of Authorization: Presence on the list doesn't confirm authorization; consumers should check RBI's official list for verification.

Other Important Banking Related Current Affairs

- The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has significantly boosted its stake in **Bank of Maharashtra from 4.05% to 7.10%**, as disclosed in an exchange filing on October 5, 2024. This increase follows the allotment of **25.96 crore** equity shares priced at ₹57.36 each through a Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP). This strategic move reflects LIC's confidence in the bank's growth potential and is aimed at strengthening its balance sheet to support expansion plans.
- Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal has informed that the Indian and UAE governments are working on **interlinking the UPI of India and the AANI of UAE**. It will facilitate seamless cross-border transactions between two countries. This will benefit over 3 million Indians residing in the UAE enabling them to use the power of UPI and AANI.
- Pakistan is witnessing widespread protests after the government raised **taxes by 40%** as part of a **\$7 billion bailout deal** with the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**.
- HDFC Life, a prominent player in India's insurance sector, has earned dual accolades for its commitment to **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)** by **Avtar and Seramount**. Recognised among the **Best Companies for Women in India (BCWI)** and as **'Exemplars of Inclusion'** in the Most Inclusive Companies Index (MICI), HDFC Life stands out for its supportive ecosystem not only for women but also for people with disabilities, the **LGBTQ+ community**, and diverse cultural backgrounds.

Banking Current Affairs of September 2024

S.No.	Bank Name	Purpose
1.	State Bank of India (SBI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The State Bank of India (SBI) Foundation has unveiled the third edition of its flagship initiative, the SBI Asha Scholarship Programme. • This ambitious program aims to support 10,000 talented students from underprivileged backgrounds across India, offering substantial financial assistance to help them pursue their educational dreams.
2.	RBL Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private sector lender RBL Bank has launched a new credit card in collaboration with Indian Oil Corporation, named 'Xtra Credit Card,' as part of its strategy to moderately grow its credit card portfolio and enhance customer engagement.
3.	Union Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Union Bank of India has made a significant move by becoming the first major bank to sign on to the Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials (PCAF).
4.	Axis Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Axis Bank, a leading private sector bank in India, has partnered with Mastercard, a global payments technology firm, to launch the MyBiz credit card, specifically designed for sole proprietors and small business owners. • This premium World Mastercard® offers a comprehensive suite of business and travel benefits tailored to meet the diverse needs of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).
5.	Bank of Baroda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bank of Baroda, in collaboration with EaseMyTrip.com, has introduced the Bank of Baroda EaseMyTrip Co-branded Travel Debit Card, aiming to cater to frequent travelers and those with a penchant for entertainment and lifestyle. • This initiative marks the first co-branded travel debit card launched by a public sector bank in India, reflecting the growing trend towards customized financial products.

Current Affairs related to Regulatory authorities

6.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	<p>RBI Fines on HDFC and Axis Bank:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HDFC Bank fined ₹1.91 crore. • Axis Bank fined ₹1 crore. • Penalties for non-compliance with RBI directives on deposits, KYC norms, and agricultural loans.
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		<p>HDFC Bank Penalty Details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interest Rate on Deposits: Non-compliance with RBI directions. • Customer Service & Recovery Agents: Failure to follow guidelines. • Incentives to Depositors: Issued gifts worth over ₹250 for new deposits, violating standards. • Operational Issues: Opened accounts for ineligible entities, contacted customers outside permissible hours. <p>Axis Bank Penalty Details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Banking Regulation Act Violations: Non-compliance with KYC and credit flow to agriculture. • KYC Compliance: Issued multiple customer identification codes instead of Unique Customer Identification Code (UCIC). • Agricultural Loans: Took collateral for loans up to ₹1.60 lakh, against RBI's collateral-free loan rule. • Subsidiary Operations: Subsidiary engaged in unauthorized activities under the Banking Regulation Act. <p>RBI's Statement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Penalties are due to deficiencies in statutory and regulatory compliance. • The validity of transactions or agreements with customers remains unaffected. • Further actions may be taken by the RBI.
	<p>Reserve Bank of India (RBI)</p>	<p>RBI Penalties on NBFCs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three NBFCs fined for non-compliance with RBI housing finance directives. • Godrej Housing Finance Limited: Fined ₹5 lakh. • Aadhar Housing Finance Limited: Fined ₹5 lakh. • Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited (HUDCO): Fined ₹3.5 lakh. <p>Basis of Penalties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fines imposed under Section 52A of the National Housing Bank Act, 1987. • Inspections based on financial positions as of March 31, 2022. • RBI imposed penalties after reviewing the companies' responses to notices. <p>Godrej Housing Finance Limited:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failed to obtain two independent valuation reports before sanctioning loans of ₹75 lakh and above. <p>Aadhar Housing Finance Limited:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charged interest on loans before actual disbursement, violating the RBI's 'Fair Practices Code.' <p>Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited (HUDCO):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failed to conduct customer risk categorization for FY 2021-22. • Did not periodically review account risk categories. • Failed to create and register a floating charge on depositor assets, breaching Section 29B of the NHB Act.
	<p>Reserve Bank of India (RBI)</p>	<p>RBI Penalties on Financial Entities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two financial institutions fined for regulatory non-compliance. <p>Penalty on UCO Bank:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amount: ₹2.68 crore. • Reasons: Violations related to current account openings, interest rates on deposits, and fraud classification. <p>Penalty on Cent Bank Home Finance Ltd:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amount: ₹2.1 lakh. • Reasons: Non-compliance with Know Your Customer (KYC) regulations. <p>RBI Clarification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Penalties imposed for regulatory compliance issues. • Do not impact the validity of transactions or agreements with customers.





Other Important Banking Related Current Affairs

- **Star Health and Allied Insurance**, a prominent health insurance provider in India, has taken a groundbreaking step towards inclusivity by introducing an insurance policy in **Braille**. This initiative marks a significant milestone in empowering visually impaired individuals, allowing them to access crucial health insurance information independently.
- **Kotak General Insurance** has undergone a transformative rebranding, emerging as **Zurich Kotak General Insurance**. This change comes on the heels of a major acquisition that sees the global insurance giant, Zurich Insurance Group, taking a commanding 70% stake in the company. This move not only reshapes the competitive landscape of India's general insurance market but also signals a new chapter in foreign investment in the country's financial services sector.
- Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman represented India at the **9th Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) Board** of Governors meeting held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, on September 25-26, 2024. During her visit, she also engaged in discussions with **Uzbekistan's President Shavkat Mirziyoyev** on the sidelines of the meeting.
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has launched a dedicated **Foreign Portfolio Investor Outreach Cell** as part of the Alternative Investment Fund and Foreign Portfolio Investors Department (AFD).

Banking Current Affairs of August 2024

S.No.	Bank Name	Purpose
1.	Axis Bank	<p>Setu, a Pine Labs-owned API infrastructure provider, has launched UPISetu in collaboration with Axis Bank.</p> <p>About Setu and Pine Labs:</p> <p>Setu:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Founded in 2018, providing API solutions for various financial services. • Acquired by Pine Labs in 2022. • Licensed by RBI as an account aggregator. <p>Pine Labs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operates in India, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia. • Focuses on merchant commerce and digital payments via platforms like Plural and Qwikcilver.
2.	Axis Bank	<p>Axis Bank, in partnership with Visa, has unveiled the 'Primus' credit card, an ultra-premium offering tailored exclusively for India's ultra-high-net-worth individuals (UHNWIs).</p> <p>Key Features and Benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invitation-Only Membership: Offered exclusively to select UHNWIs, enhancing its prestige. • High Fees: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Joining fee: ₹5 lakh. 2. Annual fee: ₹3 lakh, reflecting the card's exclusive nature.
3.	RBL Bank	<p>Introduction of Vijay Fixed Deposits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launched by RBL Bank to commemorate India's 78th Independence Day. • Offers a fixed deposit tenor of 500 days with competitive interest rates.
4.	Bandhan Bank	<p>Introduction of Avni Savings Account</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launched by Bandhan Bank on August 22, 2024, during its Foundation Day celebrations. • Tailored specifically for women, focusing on well-off female customers.
5.	Airtel Payments Bank	<p>Airtel Payments Bank has introduced a new security feature called Face Match, leveraging AI to enhance account protection.</p>
6.	ESAF Small Finance Bank	<p>ESAF Small Finance Bank, in collaboration with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), has introduced the Inori RuPay Platinum Credit Card.</p>

Current Affairs related to Regulatory authorities

S.No.	Name	Purpose
7.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licenses Cancelled: RBI has cancelled licenses of 78 Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) since 2014, with 46% from Maharashtra. • Reasons for Cancellation: Inadequate capital, poor earning prospects, deteriorating financial position, and operations prejudicial to depositors' interests. <p>2024 License Cancellations: 10 UCBs' licenses were cancelled (as of July 2024) with states affected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maharashtra: 2





Current Affairs related to Regulatory authorities

S.No.	Name	Purpose
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karnataka: 2 • Uttar Pradesh: 2 • Gujarat: 1 • Rajasthan: 1 • Assam: 1 • Andhra Pradesh: 1 <p>Previous Years: 2023: 14 UCBs 2022: 12 UCBs</p> <p>Top States Since 2014:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maharashtra: 36 UCBs • Uttar Pradesh: 14 UCBs • Karnataka: 8 UCBs • Gujarat: 2 UCBs
8.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New RBI Instructions: Revised instructions for the treatment of Bad and Doubtful Debt Reserve (BDDR) across cooperative banks for uniformity in accounting of non-performing assets (NPAs). • Applicability: Norms apply to Urban Co-operative Banks, State Cooperative Banks, and Central Co-operative Banks, effective immediately. • Immediate Effect: The revised norms come into force without delay for all cooperative banks. • Expense Recognition: From FY25, provisions for NPAs must be charged as an expense to the Profit & Loss (P&L) account in the accounting period they are recognized. • Regulatory Capital: Provisions for regulatory capital will continue to adhere to existing capital adequacy norms. <p>Transition Measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification and Quantification: Banks must identify and quantify BDDR balances as of March 31, 2024, reflecting prior provisions. • Reallocation of Provisions: By March 31, 2025, provisions should be appropriated from the P&L Account or General Reserves, and netted off from Gross NPAs (GNPAs) to calculate Net NPAs (NNPAs). • Handling Excess Balances: Excess BDDR balances not needed for provisions can be transferred to General Reserves or the P&L Account. <p>Capital Treatment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tier 1 Capital: After adjustments, BDDR balances can be treated as Tier 1 capital. • Non-Reduction from NPAs: BDDR balances should not be used to reduce Gross NPAs for the calculation of Net NPAs
10.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	<p>RBI Decision: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has increased the upper limit for tax payments through UPI to Rs 5 lakh per transaction from Rs 1 lakh.</p> <p>Enhanced UPI Limit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Limit: Rs 5 lakh per transaction. • Previous Limit: Rs 1 lakh per transaction. • Purpose: To facilitate larger tax payments in a single transaction, reducing the need for multiple payments. <p>Benefits and Expectations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convenience: Expected to provide convenience for high-value transactions. • Promotion of Digital Payments: Part of RBI's ongoing efforts to promote digital payments and reduce reliance on cash. • Encouragement for Taxpayers: Aims to encourage more taxpayers to adopt digital payment methods for tax liabilities.





Current Affairs related to Regulatory authorities

S.No.	Name	Purpose
		<p>Periodic Reviews and Enhancements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RBI periodically reviews and enhances limits for various categories, including capital markets, IPO subscriptions, loan collections, insurance, medical, and educational services. <p>Introduction of Delegated Payments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delegated Payments: RBI is exploring a feature allowing individuals to authorize others to make payments using their UPI account. Expected Impact: Anticipated to enhance the reach and usage of digital payments. <p>UPI's Role in Digital Payments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> User Base: UPI has a user base of 424 million individuals. Transaction Volume Growth: UPI transactions grew from 12.5 billion in 2019-20 to 131 billion in 2023-24, accounting for 80% of all digital payment volumes in India. Support from PIDsF: Growth supported by the Payment Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF), enhancing the country's payment infrastructure.
11.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	<p>RBI Announcement: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has changed the reporting frequency for credit information from monthly to every 15 days.</p> <p>Key Objectives:</p> <p>Faster Updates for Borrowers: Changes in a borrower's credit status, such as loan repayments, will be reflected promptly in credit reports. Borrowers can see positive effects of financial actions (e.g., debt repayment) more quickly.</p> <p>Enhanced Accuracy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More current credit reports provide a clearer picture of a borrower's financial health. This aids in accurate assessment of creditworthiness, benefiting borrowers seeking favorable loan terms. <p>Better Risk Assessment for Lenders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up-to-date credit information improves lenders' risk assessment capabilities. May lead to more informed lending decisions and better interest rates for borrowers with strong credit histories. <p>Industry Reactions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RBI Governor's Statement: Shaktikanta Das emphasized that fortnightly reporting will enhance transparency and promote a healthier credit culture. <p>Expert Opinions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vishal Sharma, CEO of AdvaRisk, described the move as progressive. Anil Gupta from ICRA Ltd. noted that quicker updates will improve lending decisions and reflect rapidly changing credit profiles of borrowers.
12.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	<p>Cheque Truncation System (CTS) Revamp: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has revamped the cheque truncation system to improve cheque clearing efficiency and enhance customer experience.</p> <p>Transition Details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moving from batch processing to continuous clearing with on-realisation-settlement. Cheques will now be scanned, presented, and passed within a few hours during business hours. Clearing cycle reduced from T+1 days to just a few hours. <p>Public Repository of Loan Apps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RBI is creating a public repository of digital lending apps (DLAs) to combat online financial fraud. This repository will help customers verify claims of association with lenders and will be available on the RBI website. The repository will be updated based on data submitted directly by lenders.





Current Affairs related to Regulatory authorities

S.No.	Name	Purpose
		<p>Guidelines on Digital Lending:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Despite existing guidelines issued on September 2, 2022, addressing customer protection, data privacy, and recovery practices, some unscrupulous players continue to mislead the public. <p>Fortnightly Credit Scores:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RBI has directed credit bureaus to provide credit reports on a fortnightly basis instead of the current monthly reports. This aims to give a more up-to-date picture of a borrower's indebtedness. <p>Benefits of Increased Reporting Frequency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fortnightly reporting will benefit both borrowers and lenders. Borrowers will see faster updates, especially post-loan repayment. Lenders can make better risk assessments and reduce the risk of borrower over-leveraging. <p>Enhanced UPI Limits for Tax Payments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RBI has increased the UPI limit for tax payments to ₹5 lakh per day, up from the previous limit of ₹1 lakh. The existing daily cap remains for all other payments. The RBI has periodically reviewed and enhanced limits for various categories, including capital markets, IPO subscriptions, and loan collections.
13.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	<p>The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced stricter regulations for Housing Finance Companies (HFCs) to bring their public deposit norms in line with those for Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deposit ceiling cut to 1.5x of net owned fund from previous 3x limit Deposit maturity period reduced to 12-60 months from 120 months Liquid asset ratio to reach 15% by July 2025 (14% by January 2025) Full asset cover required for public deposits with NHB reporting HFCs must follow NBFC regulations for branch/agent deposit collection Board-approved limits needed for unquoted shares investment HFCs can use currency futures, interest rate futures, and CDS for hedging Non-deposit HFCs (>₹1,000 cr) allowed in currency options trading All HFCs permitted for interest rate futures trading CDS trading limited to buying protection only - no selling/short positions
14.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	<p>RBI forms Expert Committee under Deputy Governor M.D. Patra's chairmanship to evaluate statistical standards</p> <p>Key Committee Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> R. B. Barman: Former Chairman, National Statistical Commission Sonalde Desai: NCAER & University of Maryland Partha Ray: Director, National Institute of Bank Management Bimal Roy: Former NSC Chairman & ISI Director Paul Schreyer: Former OECD Chief Statistician Sudarshan Sen: Former RBI Executive Director Bruno Tissot: Head, BIS Statistics and Research Muneesh Kapur: RBI Executive Director O.P. Mall: RBI Executive Director <p>Committee Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benchmark RBI statistics against global standards Evaluate data quality where benchmarks don't exist Provide guidance for data refinement opportunities





Current Affairs related to Regulatory authorities

S.No.	Name	Purpose
15.	RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das awarded 'A+' grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das awarded 'A+' grade for second consecutive year Honor bestowed by US-based Global Finance magazine <p>Grading Framework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scale ranges from 'A' (outstanding) to 'F' (failure) <p>Evaluation criteria includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inflation control Economic growth targets Currency stability Interest rate management <p>Top Global Performers:</p> <p>'A+' grade recipients:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shaktikanta Das (India) Christian Kettel Thomsen (Denmark) Thomas Jordan (Switzerland)
16.	RBI Forecasts Private Capex to Rise to ₹2.45 Trillion in FY25	<p>FY25 Investment Projections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private capex forecast: ₹2.45 trillion in FY25 (up from ₹1.59 trillion in FY24) Total sanctioned projects: ₹3.90 trillion in FY24 Project timeline distribution: 54% for FY23, 30% for FY25, 16% for later years <p>Investment Details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects analyzed: Cost above ₹10 crore FY24 investment intentions: ₹5.65 lakh crore (up from ₹3.51 lakh crore in FY23) Major projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11 mega projects (>₹5,000 crore) 77 large projects (>₹1,000 crore) <p>Key Focus Areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary sectors: Infrastructure, roads & bridges, power Top 5 states (55% of total cost): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gujarat Maharashtra Karnataka Andhra Pradesh Uttar Pradesh
17.	RBI Adds FASTag, NCMC Auto-Replenishment to E-Mandate Framework	<p>RBI Updates e-Mandate Framework: RBI has updated its e-mandate rules to include auto-replenishment for FASTag and National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) balances.</p> <p>Auto-Replenishment Transactions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> These transactions occur when balances fall below a customer-defined threshold. They are now exempt from the pre-debit notification requirement, which previously mandated a 24-hour advance notice before debits. <p>Rationale for Change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The update aims to streamline essential, irregular recurring transactions like toll payments and mobility card top-ups. The decision reflects the need to accommodate flexible services without requiring fixed periodic notifications. <p>Background on e-Mandate Framework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduced in 2019 to enhance customer protection by requiring pre-debit notifications for recurring transactions. The new rules align with the RBI's ongoing efforts to balance customer protection and practicality in payment services.





Current Affairs related to Regulatory authorities

S.No.	Name	Purpose
18.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	<p>RBI Penalties Overview:</p> <p>UCO Bank:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fine amount: ₹2.68 crore • Violations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Current account opening rules ○ Deposit interest rate regulations ○ Fraud classification norms <p>Cent Bank Home Finance Ltd:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fine amount: ₹2.1 lakh • Violation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ KYC regulation non-compliance

Banking Current Affairs of July 2024

S.No.	Bank Name	Purpose
1.	Union Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Union Premier Branches: Launched by Union Bank of India for high-value customers in rural and semi-urban (RUSU) markets. • Personalized Banking: Each branch offers dedicated Relationship Managers to provide tailored banking services to high-value customers. • Digital Solutions: Equipped with advanced digital technologies for seamless and efficient banking transactions with quick service. • Luxurious Experience: Branches provide a serene, luxurious environment for enhanced customer comfort and satisfaction.
2.	State Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSME Sahaj: An online business loan solution by SBI tailored for MSMEs, offering swift credit against GST-registered sales invoices. • Rapid Loan Processing: MSMEs can access up to ₹1 lakh in under 15 minutes, with no manual intervention.
3.	ICICI Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICICI Bank announced the launch of its 'Student Sapphire Forex Card', a premium forex prepaid card crafted specifically for students who are going abroad for higher education. • Reload Feature: Card can be reloaded instantly by students or parents through iMobile Pay and internet banking.
4.	Bank of Baroda (BoB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BoB Capital Raising Plan: Bank of Baroda (BoB) plans to raise up to ₹7,500 crore through Additional Tier-I (AT1) and Tier-II bonds by March 31, 2025, in multiple tranches, depending on market conditions. • Board Approval: The board approved raising capital, with an option to issue bonds in the overseas market if favorable. • Previous Fundraising (FY23): Raised ₹2,474 crore through AT1 capital and ₹5,000 crore through Tier-II capital. <p>Capital Adequacy (as of March 2024):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR): 16.31% • Common Equity Tier-I Ratio: 12.54% • Additional Tier-I Capital: 1.53% • Tier-II Capital: 2.24%
5.	Punjab National Bank (PNB)	In response to rising cyber fraud incidents, Punjab National Bank (PNB) has introduced the 'Safety Ring' security feature . This optional mechanism provides an additional layer of protection against unauthorized access, aimed at minimizing potential financial losses for users of its internet and mobile banking services.
6.	State Bank of India (SBI)	State Bank of India (SBI) has launched a 444-day term deposit scheme, "Amrit Vrishti" , with an interest rate of 7.25 per cent .
7.	IndusInd Bank	IndusInd Bank has announced the launch of 'Wrestle for Glory' program , a CSR initiative of the Bank, continuing the longstanding collaboration with the Inspire Institute of Sport (IIS).





Current Affairs related to Regulatory authorities

S.No.	Name	Purpose
1.	Reserve Bank of India	<p>WMA Limit Revision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aggregate Ways and Means Advances (WMA) limit for States/UTs increased to ₹60,118 crore from ₹47,010 crore. Revision based on expenditure data of States and RBI Group's recommendations, effective from July 1. <p>Purpose of WMA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RBI provides WMA to help States/UTs manage temporary mismatches in cash flow. Advances are repayable within three months of issuance. <p>Types of WMA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Normal WMA: Clean advances. Special WMA: Secured advances against the pledge of Government of India securities. <p>Special Drawing Facility (SDF):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SDF linked to the quantum of investments in marketable securities, including Auction Treasury Bills (ATBs). Maximum SDF limit based on 50% of the lower value between the outstanding balance as of the last date of the second preceding quarter and the current balance. <p>SDF for CSF/GRF Investments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximum SDF limit for investments under CSF/GRF set at 50% of the lower between the outstanding balance as of the last date of the second preceding quarter and the current balance. <p>SDF for ATBs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximum SDF limit for ATBs (91/182/364 days) is 50% of the lower between the outstanding balance as of the last date of the second preceding quarter and the current balance.
2.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI),	<p>RBI's Project Nexus Collaboration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiative: Project Nexus is a multilateral initiative to enable efficient, faster, and cost-effective retail cross-border payments. Countries Involved: India, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand; Indonesia as a special observer. Partnership: Collaboration between RBI, Bank for International Settlements (BIS), and central banks of Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand. Launch Date: Expected to go live by 2026, interlinking domestic fast payment systems (FPS) of these countries. <p>Project Nexus Goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Efficiency: Aims to streamline cross-border payments for faster and cost-effective transactions. Future Expansion: The platform is expected to extend to more countries. <p>India's UPI Internationalization Efforts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UPI Expansion: UPI is being promoted for cross-border P2P and P2M payments, already accepted in countries like Mauritius, Singapore, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. <p>Recent UPI Developments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> January 2024: NPCI launched UPI-PayNow for India-Singapore remittances. January 2024: Google Pay and NPCI International Payments expanded UPI outside India. February 2024: NPCI partnered with Lyra for UPI in France, Sri Lanka, and Mauritius. June 2024: PhonePe collaborated with LankaPay for UPI in Sri Lanka.





Current Affairs related to Regulatory authorities		
S.No.	Name	Purpose
3.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on July 5 imposed a monetary penalty of ₹1.32 crore on Punjab National Bank (PNB) for violations related to loans and advances and Know Your Customer (KYC) norms.
4.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced its quarterly “Order Books, Inventories and Capacity Utilisation Survey” (OBICUS) for the manufacturing sector, aimed at informing monetary policy decisions .
5.	Reserve Bank of India’s (RBI)	The Reserve Bank of India’s (RBI) Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index) , which measures the extent of financial inclusion across the country, rose to 64.2 in March 2024 from 60.1 in March 2023 . This improvement reflects growth across all sub-indices, indicating a deepening of financial inclusion.
6.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	<p>RBI Committee on White-Label ATM (WLA) Fee Structure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose: The RBI established a committee to review the fee structure of WLAs and recommend a sustainable model. • Committee Head: Chaired by Indian Banks’ Association CEO, Sunil Mehta, with representatives from banks, ATM manufacturers, and NPCI. <p>Key Objectives and Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment Focus: Evaluate fee structure, ATM infrastructure, and global best practices. • Main Challenge: The interchange fee for WLAs and bank-operated ATMs is the same, making operations unsustainable due to fewer ATM transactions amid rising digital banking. <p>Market Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market Growth: India's ATM market is projected to grow at a CAGR of 9.2% (2024-2032). • Stakeholders: Includes banks, ATM manufacturers, and the NPCI.
7.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	<p>RBI's Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) Framework for Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective: To improve the financial health of weak UCBs, replacing the Supervisory Action Framework (SAF). • Effective Date: April 1, 2025. • Applicability: Applies to UCBs with deposits above ₹100 crore. <p>Norms for PCA Invocation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR): 250 basis points below the required level. • Net NPAs: Between 6% and 9%. • Losses: Incurred for two consecutive years. <p>UCB Tier Categorization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tier 1: UCBs with deposits up to ₹100 crore (excluded from PCA for now, but under enhanced monitoring). • Tier 2: Deposits above ₹100 crore and less than ₹1,000 crore. • Tier 3: Deposits above ₹1,000 crore and less than ₹10,000 crore. • Tier 4: Deposits above ₹10,000 crore. <p>Key Features of the Revised PCA Framework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring: Focus on larger UCBs that require intensive supervision. • Flexibility: Supervisors can design entity-specific action plans based on risk assessment. • Exit from PCA: No breaches in risk thresholds over four successive quarterly financial statements. • Capital Expenditure Limit: The hard-coded ₹25,000 limit under SAF has been removed; supervisors will set limits based on entity assessments. <p>Summary of Framework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target: Improvement of weak UCBs with deposits over ₹100 crore. • Breach of Norms: Leads to PCA invocation based on risk thresholds in capital, NPAs, or consecutive losses.





Other Important Banking Related Current Affairs

- **Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd** has undergone a transformation, rebranding itself to **Sammaan Capital Ltd**. This change reflects its shift from a promoter-led entity to a board-run, diversified financial institution. The rebranding, effective upon receipt of regulatory approvals, marks a significant milestone in the company's 25-year journey since its inception as Indiabulls Financial Services Limited in 2000.
- Muthoot Finance has been exclusively selected as the only Indian NBFC for the **Financial Action Task Force's (FATF)** Mutual Evaluation report for 2023-24. This recognition highlights Muthoot Finance's global trustworthiness and compliance with stringent financial regulations.
- The **National Pension System (NPS)** witnessed a robust **40.1% year-on-year growth**, reaching **₹2.47-lakh crore** by June 29, fueled largely by buoyant equity markets and expanding private sector subscriptions. Overall NPS assets, including **Atal Pension Yojana (APY)**, approached **₹12.5-lakh crore**, marking a 28.64% increase, as per **PFRDA data**.
- **ICICI Lombard**, a leading private general insurer in India, has launched **'Elevate'**, a pioneering health insurance product **integrating AI technology**. This innovative offering is designed to meet the diverse needs of modern lifestyles and unforeseen medical emergencies, emphasizing personalized solutions and comprehensive coverage.
- Four public sector banks, including Canara Bank, Indian Bank, Bank of India, and EXIM Bank, have collectively paid a **dividend of ₹6,481 crore** to the government for the financial

- year **2023-24**. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman received dividend cheques from each bank's managing directors and CEOs.
- **ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund** has made a significant move in the Indian investment landscape by launching the **ICICI Prudential Nifty Oil & Gas ETF**.
- **Kotak Mahindra AMC** has introduced the **Kotak BSE PSU Index Fund**, a passive equity scheme mirroring the **BSE PSU Index comprising 56 PSU stocks**. This fund aims to capitalize on the strong momentum in public sector undertaking (PSU) stocks, which have shown significant growth recently. Investors can participate in India's economic trajectory through a cost-effective investment vehicle managed systematically by the fund.
- **IndusInd Bank** has announced the launch of 'Wrestle for Glory' program, a CSR initiative of the Bank, continuing the longstanding collaboration with the Inspire Institute of Sport (IIS).
- The **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)**, which received approval of funding of \$ 215.6 m from the Green Climate Fund, will create a corpus of \$1 billion for 'financing mitigation and adaptation projects' (FMAP) of Medium and Small Enterprises (MSMEs).
- The **All-India Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labourers (CPI-AL)** and Rural Labourers (CPI-RL) (Base: 1986-87=100) saw an increase of 11 points each in June 2024, reaching 1280 and 1292, respectively.

Banking Current Affairs of June 2024

S. No.	Bank Name	Purpose
1.	State Bank of India	SBI's Market Capitalization Surpasses ₹8 Lakh Crore <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant Milestone: State Bank of India (SBI) crossed ₹8 lakh crore in market capitalization, driven by a surge in stock prices. • Stock Rally: Shares soared nearly 10%, aided by a broader market rally, with benchmarks hitting record highs due to favorable exit polls.
2.	Punjab National Bank	The Board of Punjab National Bank (PNB) has approved the initiation of the process to dilute 10% of its shareholding in Canara HSBC Life Insurance through an initial public offering (IPO).
3.	ICICI Bank	Adani One , the digital platform of the Adani Group , and ICICI Bank have introduced two variants of co-branded credit cards in partnership with Visa. This launch signifies Adani Group's entry into the retail financial sector, offering cardholders up to 7% Adani reward points on spending within the Adani ecosystem.
4.	All India Bank Employees' Association	The Bank Clinic , spearheaded by the All India Bank Employees' Association (AIBEA) , aims to empower retail customers by providing guidance on addressing their grievances in the rapidly evolving landscape of banking technology and regulatory standards set by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
5.	Axis Bank and Bajaj Allianz General Insurance	Axis Bank and Bajaj Allianz General Insurance have joined forces in a strategic bancassurance partnership aimed at boosting insurance penetration and financial inclusion in India.
6.	SBI Mutual Fund (SBI MF)	SBI Mutual Fund (SBI MF) achieved a historic milestone by becoming the first fund house in India to surpass Rs 10 trillion in assets under management (AUM) .
7.	Bank of India	The Bank of India has acquired a 6.125% stake in the Clearing Corporation of India Ltd. (IFSC) for ₹6.125 crore , aiming to enhance its strategic presence in GIFT City IFSC.





S. No.	Bank Name	Purpose
8.	State Bank of India	<p>SBI Co-Lending with NBFCs and Digital Initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-Lending Tie-Ups: SBI has partnered with 23 NBFCs/HFCs to enhance financial access for the underserved population. • Digital Co-Lending Platform: Launched a digital platform for credit underwriting, sanction, disbursement, and collections for NBFC co-lending. <p>Key Statistics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loans Sanctioned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2.79 lakh borrowers, amounting to ₹2,030 crore. ○ 2.70 lakh loans up to ₹3 lakh fully digitized. ○ 1,042 MSME accounts sanctioned under 9 NBFCs, totaling ₹469 crore. <p>Collaboration with NBFCs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NBFCs' Role: Originate fresh loans across various segments such as agriculture, SME, and housing, increasing SBI's loan portfolio. • Co-Lending Flexibility: SBI can accept or reject loans based on its own due diligence via its digital platform, using APIs on AWS. <p>Other Initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FPO Financing: SBI is actively financing Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), hosting FPO Connect Programmes in FY2024. • SBOSS Subsidiary: SBI's outsourcing arm, SBOSS, sourced 6.70 lakh new KCC loans, worth over ₹13,500 crore, in rural/semi-urban areas using a "High Tech, High Touch, Low Cost" approach.
9.	Punjab National Bank	<p>Punjab National Bank (PNB) Overseas Expansion and Growth Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Office in Dubai: PNB plans to open a representative office in Dubai, with regulatory clearance underway, expected to launch within the current financial year. <p>Current Overseas Presence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing Operations: As of March 31, 2024, PNB has a presence in six countries through subsidiaries, joint ventures, and representative offices. <p>Strategic Focus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Profitability Enhancement: The bank aims to expand its retail, agriculture, and MSME portfolios while enhancing corporate lending, controlling slippages, and improving recovery rates. <p>Revenue Enhancement Areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-Interest Income: PNB plans to boost forex income and increase fee income from third-party product sales. • Deposits Target: Aiming to raise the CASA (Current Account Savings Account) ratio beyond 42% by the end of the fiscal year. <p>Financial Targets and Projections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Credit Costs: Targeting to maintain credit costs below 1%. • Return on Assets (ROA): Expected to reach 0.8% in the current year, with a goal of hitting 1% by March 2025. • Growth Projections: Anticipates credit growth of 11-12% and deposit growth of 9-10% for the current financial year. <p>Capital Raising Plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for Growth: PNB has received approval to raise ₹17,500 crore through Tier I and Tier II bonds and private placement of shares during the year.





S. No.	Bank Name	Purpose
10.	State Bank of India	<p>State Bank of India (SBI) Launches SME Digital Business Loans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quick Sanction Turnaround: SBI's SME Digital Business Loans offer an end-to-end sanction turnaround time of up to 45 minutes for SMEs. • Technology Utilization: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The loan process leverages technology and an ecosystem of APIs (application programming interface). ○ A data-driven credit assessment engine provides sanction decisions within 10 seconds using authentic data from ITR, GST returns, and bank statements. • Accessibility: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Available through multiple channels: SBI's website, branches, SME Centres, internet platforms, and will soon be accessible via CSP partner touchpoints and QR codes at outdoor locations.
11.	Axis Bank	The Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) has levied a penalty exceeding Rs 1.66 crore on Axis Bank for neglecting to implement adequate measures to identify and report suspicious transactions.
12.	State Bank of India (SBI)	State Bank of India (SBI) has distributed a dividend of Rs 6,959 crore to the Indian government for the financial year 2023-24.
13.	State Bank of India	State Bank of India (SBI), under Chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara, aims to open 400 new branches across India in the fiscal year 2024-25.
14.	Kotak Mahindra Bank	Kotak Mahindra Bank in India plans to expand its branch network by 175 to 200 branches in FY25. This decision comes despite recent regulatory restrictions from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on digital customer acquisition and credit card issuance due to IT-related issues.
15.	ICICI Bank	ICICI Bank's market capitalisation(m-cap) on June 25 crossed the \$100-billion mark for the first time, becoming only the sixth company to do so.
16.	State Bank of India	State Bank of India (SBI) has successfully raised Rs 10,000 crore through its fifth infrastructure bond issuance. The bonds, with a tenure of 15 years and a coupon rate of 7.36% payable annually, garnered significant investor interest, oversubscribed nearly four times the base size of Rs 5,000 crore.

Current Affairs related to Regulatory authorities

S. No.	Name	Purpose
1.	Reserve Bank of India	Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the auction of 10-year green bonds as traders refused to pay the greenium, the premium for sustainability impact. This move highlights the market's reluctance to invest at the desired yields, leading to significant financial implications.
2.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) conducted two variable rate reverse repo (VRRR) auctions totaling ₹44,430 crore , aiming to absorb surplus liquidity from the banking system.
3.	Reserve Bank of India	Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has given the green light to Zurich Insurance Company's acquisition of a 70% stake in Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Company for ₹5,560 crore .
4.	Reserve Bank of India	<p>The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has initiated its third global hackathon, HaRBinger 2024 – Innovation for Transformation, aimed at developing innovative tech-based solutions to predict, detect, and prevent financial frauds in real-time. The hackathon features two key themes: 'Zero Financial Frauds' and 'Being Divyang Friendly'.</p> <p>Key Aspects The Reserve Bank of India has launched its third global hackathon, HaRBinger 2024 – Innovation for Transformation, inviting participants to develop innovative technological solutions under specific themes. Registration for the hackathon began on June 7, 2024.</p> <p>Themes and Problem Statements: Zero Financial Frauds</p>





Current Affairs related to Regulatory authorities

S. No.	Name	Purpose
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Real-time prediction, detection, and prevention of frauds using alternative data sources, including public information. • Ensuring transaction anonymity in token-based (CBDC) transactions while maintaining financial system integrity. • Identifying mule bank accounts and payment wallets. <p>Being Divyang Friendly Accurately identifying banknotes for visually impaired individuals. Participants will have the opportunity to be mentored by industry experts, present their solutions to an eminent jury, and win exciting prizes. The awards include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INR 40 lakh for the winner of each problem statement. • A special prize of INR 20 lakh for the best all-woman team across all problem statements. • A stipend of INR 5 lakh per team shortlisted for solution development to cover prototype development costs.
5.	Reserve Bank of India	<p>Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Updates on Fixed Deposits and Other Initiatives</p> <p>Revision in Bulk Fixed Deposit Threshold</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Threshold: The limit for bulk fixed deposits has been increased from ₹2 crore to ₹3 crore. • Purpose: This adjustment aims to refine liquidity management and align deposit classifications with current economic needs. <p>Bulk Fixed Deposits and Interest Rates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interest Rates: Bulk fixed deposits typically offer higher interest rates compared to retail term deposits. • Definition: Retail fixed deposits are defined as single rupee term deposits up to ₹2 crore with Scheduled Commercial Banks (excluding Regional Rural Banks) and Small Finance Banks. <p>Revised Definitions for Bulk Deposits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scheduled Commercial Banks: Bulk deposits are now defined as single rupee term deposits of ₹3 crore and above. • Local Area Banks: The threshold for bulk deposits is set at ₹1 crore, aligning it with the definition for Regional Rural Banks. <p>Ease of Doing Business and FEMA Guidelines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Streamlining Guidelines: RBI plans to rationalize guidelines under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) of 1999 to enhance operational flexibility for authorized dealer banks. • Stakeholder Feedback: Draft guidelines will be released shortly for stakeholder input. <p>Enhancing Digital Payments Security</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital Payments Intelligence Platform: The RBI proposes establishing a platform for network-level intelligence and real-time data sharing across the digital payments ecosystem to improve security and consumer confidence. • Committee Formation: A committee has been formed to explore the establishment of this platform. <p>Promoting Fintech Innovation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HaRBInger Hackathon: RBI continues to promote fintech innovation through the global hackathon 'HaRBInger – Innovation for Transformation'. • Focus Areas for 2024: The third edition, 'HaRBInger 2024', will focus on themes like 'Zero Financial Frauds' and 'Being Divyang Friendly', following the successful completion of previous editions in 2022 and 2023.
6.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	<p>Jupiter Money Receives RBI Approval for Digital Wallet Services</p> <p>Authorization and New Offerings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Authorization: Jupiter Money, backed by Tiger Global, has received final approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to offer digital wallet services.





Current Affairs related to Regulatory authorities		
S. No.	Name	Purpose
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upcoming Features: The Jupiter Prepaid Account will enable customers to make UPI payments, money transfers, and other transactions, launching in the coming months.
7.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	RBI Imposes Fines on Central Bank of India and Sonali Bank PLC Penalties Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central Bank of India: Penalized ₹1.45 crore for irregularities, including improper loan sanctioning and delays in unauthorized transaction reversals. Sonali Bank PLC: Fined ₹96.4 lakh for non-compliance with KYC norms as per the RBI's directions.
8.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has revoked the licence of Purvanchal Co-operative Bank , located in Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh, citing inadequate capital and bleak earning prospects.
9.	Reserve Bank of India's	Banks showed high demand for cash by bidding Rs 1.6 trillion in the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) variable rate repo (VRR) auction, held, against a notified amount of Rs 1 trillion.
10.	Reserve Bank of India	RBI Updates Database on Indian Economy (DBIE) Portal Key Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant Announcement: RBI has made updates to the Database on Indian Economy (DBIE) portal, effective immediately. Portal Importance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Critical Resource: Serves as a key platform for data dissemination to a diverse audience, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indian analysts International analysts Researchers Citizens Key Features <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SAARC Finance Database: Provides valuable data on regional finance. Banking Outlet Locator: Offers insights into banking infrastructure across regions.
11.	India's Reserve Bank (RBI)	India's Reserve Bank (RBI) has announced a notable decline in the proportion of short-term debt within the country's total external debt, marking a decrease of 2.1 percentage points by March 2024 compared to the previous year.
12.	Reserve Bank of India	The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has projected a further improvement in the gross non-performing assets (GNPA) ratio of scheduled commercial banks (SCBs), estimating it to decrease to 2.5% by March 2025.
13.	Reserve Bank of India	The Reserve Bank of India with the concurrence of the Government of India has decided to put in place a revised Framework on Currency Swap Arrangement for SAARC countries for the period 2024 to 2027 .
14.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	India's external debt increased by \$39.7 billion to \$663.8 billion at end-March 2024, according to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Other Important Banking Related Current Affairs

- Unified Payments Interface (UPI) achieved a record-breaking **14.04 billion transactions in May**, marking a significant increase from the 13.30 billion transactions recorded in April. This reflects a **49% year-on-year growth**. The total transaction value reached Rs 20.45 lakh crore, with an average daily transaction count of 453 million and an average daily transaction value of Rs 65,966 crore.
- Arka Fincap Limited, a subsidiary of **Kirloskar Oil Engines Limited**, has obtained a Corporate Agency License from the **IRDAI**, marking a significant milestone.
- NPCI International and the Reserve Bank of Peru have joined forces to introduce a UPI-like real-time payments system in Peru, marking a pioneering move for South America. This collaboration aims to revolutionize **Peru's financial landscape**, fostering economic growth and financial inclusion by leveraging India's renowned Unified Payment Interface (UPI) technology.
- Moody's Ratings (Moody's) on Friday affirmed the **Baa3 ratings on three Indian public sector banks — Bank of Baroda (BOB), Canara Bank, and Punjab National Bank (PNB)**. The rating agency maintained stable outlooks on the long-term ratings of all three banks, citing improved credit metrics, strong profitability, and adequate liquidity buffers.
- ATM operators in India are advocating for an increase in interchange fees by **Rs 2 per transaction**, citing financial sustainability challenges. The **Confederation of ATM Industry (CATMI)** has formally approached the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** to raise the current maximum fee from **Rs 21 to Rs 23 per transaction**, as reported by the Economic Times.





Economy/Financial Current Affairs

Economy/Financial Current Affairs of December 2024

Monetary Policy Meeting Dec 2024

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) conducted its latest bi-monthly **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting** in December 2024. Governor Shaktikanta Das announced several crucial measures and projections to address current economic challenges while maintaining stability. Here's a detailed breakdown:

CRR Cut by 50 Basis Points to 4%

To tackle liquidity concerns, the **Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)** was reduced by **50 basis points to 4%**. This move aligns with the RBI's neutral policy stance, aimed at ensuring economic stability without disruptive interventions.

Repo Rate Unchanged at 6.5%

The MPC decided by a 4-2 majority to maintain the **repo rate at 6.5%**. The Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) rate and the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate were also retained at 6.25% and 6.75%, respectively. This cautious approach reflects the central bank's focus on balancing inflation and growth.

GDP Growth Forecast Lowered for FY25

The RBI revised the GDP growth forecast for **FY25 to 6.6%**, down from the earlier projection of 7.2%. Governor Das attributed the adjustment to weaker-than-expected Q2 growth and specific challenges in the manufacturing sector. Despite this, high-frequency indicators suggest potential stabilization ahead.

Inflation Projections for FY25

The RBI forecasted an inflation rate of **4.8%** for FY25. Food inflation is expected to persist during Q3 but may ease from Q4 onward. Quarterly projections are as follows:

- Q3 FY25: 5.7%
- Q4 FY25: 4.5%
- Q1 FY26: 4.6%
- Q2 FY26: 4.0%

Support for the Agricultural Sector

In a significant move, the RBI increased the collateral limit for agricultural loans from Rs 1.6 lakh crore per borrower to Rs 2 lakh crore. This aims to enhance financial support for farmers and boost credit availability in the sector.

Introduction of SORR Benchmark

The RBI proposed a new benchmark, the Secured Overnight Rupee Rate (SORR), to strengthen market-based pricing mechanisms and enhance transparency in monetary operations.

New Communication Initiative: RBI Podcasts

The RBI plans to launch podcasts as a communication tool to improve public engagement and transparency. This initiative reflects the central bank's commitment to leveraging technology for better outreach.

Measures to Attract Foreign Capital

To boost foreign investments, the RBI raised interest rate ceilings on FCNR-B deposits and increased FCNR deposit rates. These measures aim to attract higher foreign portfolio inflows, which have totaled \$9.3 billion so far in FY25.

Addressing Unclaimed Deposits

The RBI directed banks to segregate unclaimed deposit accounts using Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT). This step aims to ensure transparency and efficiency in beneficiary identification while facilitating the seamless flow of DBT funds.

Challenges in Domestic Consumption

Private consumption growth slowed to 6% in the September quarter from 7.5% earlier, reflecting a decline in urban demand. Fixed investment growth also dipped to 5.4%. However, government consumption rebounded by 4.4%, driven by election-related activities.

Key Members of the MPC

The Monetary Policy Committee comprises six members:

1. Shaktikanta Das (Governor, RBI)
2. Michael Debabrata Patra (Deputy Governor, RBI)
3. Rajiv Ranjan (Executive Director, RBI)
4. Ram Singh (Director, Delhi School of Economics)
5. Saugata Bhattacharya (Economist)
6. Nagesh Kumar (Director, ISID)

These measures and insights reflect the RBI's balanced approach to addressing economic challenges while fostering growth and stability. The central bank continues to monitor developments closely, ensuring proactive and effective policymaking.

GDP & GROWTH RATE as per October 2024

- India's **GST revenue** grew by **8.5%** to **₹1.82 lakh crore** in November 2024, driven by a **9.4%** increase in **domestic transactions**. Key figures include **Central GST** at ₹34,141 crore, **State GST** at ₹43,047 crore, **Integrated IGST** at ₹91,828 crore, and **Cess** at ₹13,253 crore. This follows a record **₹2.10 lakh crore** collection in April 2024.
- **Morgan Stanley** revised **India's GDP growth** projection for FY25 to **6.3%** from **6.7%**, following a **5.4% GDP growth** in Q2 FY25, the lowest since March 2023. The slowdown is attributed to weaker **private consumption** and **capital expenditure**, though the **services sector** remained resilient. Despite this, **Morgan Stanley** expects a **recovery** in H2 FY25, driven by **government spending**, improved **rural demand**, and **easing financial conditions**.
- The **OECD** has upgraded **India's GDP growth forecast** for **FY25 to 6.8%**, citing strong **public infrastructure spending**, **private consumption**, and agricultural recovery. This growth momentum is expected to continue through **FY25 and FY26**, driven by **investment** and **rural income growth**. Despite global uncertainties and geopolitical risks, India's **economic resilience** points to a promising future.





- Retail **inflation** for agricultural and rural workers declined in **October 2024**, easing to **5.96%** for farm workers and **6%** for rural laborers, down from **6.36%** and **6.39%** in September. This reflects an improvement compared to **October 2023** inflation rates. The **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** for both groups rose slightly, indicating a small increase in the cost of living. **CPI-AL** was 1,315 points and **CPI-RL** was 1,326 points, showing an uptick from September.
- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has downgraded India's **GDP growth forecast** for FY25 to **6.5%** and FY26 to **7%**, citing weak industrial output, low public spending, and tight monetary policies. **Q2FY25** saw a slowdown to **5.4%** growth. Despite these challenges, India's economy remains supported by strong **agriculture**, resilient **services**, and falling **crude oil prices**.
- India's **GDP growth projections** for **FY25** have been downgraded by multiple agencies due to global and domestic challenges. **CARE Ratings** lowered its estimate from **6.8%** to **6.5%**, citing **corporate profitability contraction**, reduced **public capex**, and sluggish **urban consumption**. **Fitch Ratings** revised its forecast to **6.4%**, while the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** pegged it at **6.5%**.

ECONOMY NEWS

- India's **FDI** rose by **45%** to **USD 29.79 billion** in H1 of FY 2024-25, driven by growth in **services**, **computer**, **telecom**, and **pharma** sectors. The **July-September quarter** saw a 43% increase, totaling **USD 13.6 billion**. **Maharashtra** was the top recipient. Key investors included **Mauritius**, **Singapore**, and the **US**, with **non-conventional energy** also attracting significant FDI.
- The **National Small Industries Corporation Limited (NSIC)** achieved a milestone by paying a record **Rs. 37.97 crore** dividend to the **Government of India** for FY 2023-24. **NSIC's revenue** increased by **18.16%** to **Rs. 3,273 crore**, and its **Profit After Tax (PAT)** rose by **14.55%** to **Rs. 126.56 crore**. The **dividend cheque** was presented by **Dr. Subhransu Sekhar Acharya** to **Jitan Ram Manjhi** and **Shobha Karandlaje**.
- India's **retail inflation** is projected to have fallen to **5.53%** in **November**, down from **6.21%** in October, primarily due to moderating **vegetable prices**, especially **tomatoes**. The decline reflects a slowdown in **core inflation** and offers relief to households. **Edible oil price reductions** and seasonal drops in vegetable prices also helped stabilize inflation. The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** maintains steady interest rates, signaling a cautious approach amid economic slowdowns.
- India's **retail inflation** dropped to **5.48%** in November from **6.21%** in October, mainly due to falling **food prices**, particularly vegetables. This brought inflation within the **Reserve Bank of India's (RBI)** target range, fueling hopes of a potential **rate cut** in early 2025. **Industrial production** also showed growth, enhancing economic optimism. However,

core inflation and volatile food prices remain concerns. **Food inflation** decreased to **9.04%**, driven by lower vegetable prices, though some items like **potatoes** and **garlic** continued with high inflation.

- India's **industrial output** growth slowed to **3.5%** in **October 2024**, a significant drop from **11.9%** in the same month last year. The **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)** stood at **149.9**, up from **144.9** in October 2023. The slowdown was attributed to weaker performance in the **mining**, **electricity**, and **manufacturing** sectors.

BUSINESS NEWS

- In the **July-September 2024-25** quarter, **Singapore** became the largest source of **FDI** for India, contributing **50%** of the total **USD 13.6 billion** inflows, a **43% increase**. From **April 2000 to March 2024**, Singapore's cumulative FDI in India reached **USD 159.94 billion**, emphasizing its crucial role in India's **economic growth**.
- In **October 2024**, India's **UPI** set a record with **16.58 billion transactions** worth **Rs 23.5 trillion**. This marked a **10% increase** in volume and **14% in value** from September, driven by a surge in **person-to-merchant transactions** during the festive season. The daily average surpassed **535 million transactions** valued at **Rs 75,801 crore**, with **45% year-on-year growth** in volume and **37% in value**.
- The Indian government **abolished the windfall tax** on **crude petroleum**, **petrol**, **diesel**, and **Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF)**, effective November 2, 2024. Introduced in **July 2022** to curb excessive profits from oil companies during the **Russia-Ukraine war**, the tax aimed to stabilize **domestic supplies** and fund welfare programs. Its removal follows a **review** by the **PMO**, **Revenue Department**, and **Petroleum Ministry**, citing stabilizing **crude prices** and reduced revenue from the tax.
- The **World Bank** approved a **\$188.28 million loan** to **Maharashtra** to boost economic growth in its underdeveloped districts. Provided by the **IBRD**, the loan has a **15-year maturity** with a **five-year grace period**. The project aims to enhance **district-level governance**, improve **e-governance services**, and encourage **private sector involvement** to accelerate **economic development** and **job creation**.
- The **Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** has granted **FCRA licenses** to **USIN Foundation** and reinstated **CNI's license**, allowing the **Church of North India** to resume receiving foreign funds for **social** and **religious activities**. This decision reflects the MHA's ongoing scrutiny of **NGOs** and increasing **regulatory oversight**.
- India's **gold reserves** reached **882 tonnes** in October 2024, with the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** adding **27 tonnes**. This marks a five-fold increase in gold purchases, totaling **77 tonnes** in 2024. The RBI's acquisition in October accounted for **45%** of global central bank gold purchases. Of India's total gold reserves, **510 tonnes** are held domestically.





Economy/Financial Current Affairs of November 2024

GDP & GROWTH RATE as per October 2024

- The **Adani Group** plans to invest **\$2 billion** in acquiring **ports in Europe** to strengthen its global presence in sea trade. **Adani Ports & Special Economic Zones Ltd. (APSEZ)** aims to acquire two or three terminals in Europe, which handles **40% of global sea trade**. Domestically, APSEZ currently handles **27%** of India's cargo, with plans to increase it to **40%** by 2030. The group operates ports in **Sri Lanka, Israel, Australia, Tanzania, and Greece**.
- India has surpassed **\$1 trillion** in **FDI inflows** from **April 2000 to September 2024**, reaching **\$1,033.4 billion**. This growth is driven by favorable government policies and strong economic performance, with key sectors like **services, software, telecommunications, and manufacturing** attracting investments. Major sources of FDI include **Mauritius (25%), Singapore (24%), and the US (10%)**. Other investors include the **Netherlands, Japan, UK, and UAE**.
- **Jayen Mehta**, Managing Director of **Amul**, has had his tenure extended until **2029-2030**. Having been with **GCMMF** since 1991, Mehta has significantly contributed to shaping the **Amul** brand. His leadership follows his interim MD role in January 2023, succeeding **R.S. Sodhi**, who led for over a decade.
- Coca-Cola has sold a 40% stake in **Hindustan Coca-Cola Holdings (HCCH)** to **Jubilant Bhartia Group** for ₹12,500 crore, aligning with its global refranchising strategy. The deal strengthens Coca-Cola's presence in India, while Jubilant Bhartia will leverage its expertise from businesses like **Domino's and Dunkin'** to drive growth in **Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages (HCCB)**, Coca-Cola's largest bottler in India.
- India's **atomic power capacity** has nearly doubled from **4,780 MW** in 2014 to **8,081 MW** in 2024, achieving this in just **10 years**—a milestone that historically took over **60 years**. By **2031-32**, the capacity is projected to triple to **22,480 MW**, reinforcing India's leadership in **nuclear energy**.
- BMW Group and **UNICEF** have partnered to provide **quality STEM education** to 100,000 marginalized children, focusing on **girls in Assam, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal**. The initiative aims to bridge **educational gaps** and promote **gender equality**. This program is part of a global collaboration between BMW and UNICEF, targeting over **10 million children** worldwide.
- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has approved a **\$500 million loan** to support India's **renewable energy expansion** and **climate-resilient infrastructure**. This initiative aims to reduce **carbon emissions** and address India's vulnerability to **natural disasters**, aligning with the country's **sustainable development goals**.
- **Max Life Insurance** has rebranded as **Axis Max Life Insurance** following **Axis Bank's** increased stake in the company. The rebranding features a new logo combining Axis's iconic 'A' and burgundy color, symbolizing trust and modernity. This move aims to expand the company's reach, enhance **customer service**, and drive long-term growth, particularly beyond metro and tier 1 cities.

- **Moody's Ratings** has maintained its **7.2% GDP growth forecast** for **India** in **2024**, despite signs of slowdown in **urban demand** and mixed corporate results in **Q2**. The rating agency cited positive economic indicators such as strong **household consumption**, increased **rural demand**, robust **investment**, and **manufacturing activity**.
- India has emerged as the fastest-growing economy among **G20 countries**, with a projected **7% GDP growth** for 2024, showcasing its economic resilience amidst global challenges. This ranking, released during the ongoing **G20 summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**, highlights disparities in growth rates. **Indonesia** follows with **5% growth**, while **China** ranks third with **4.8%**.
- Morgan Stanley has revised India's **FY25 growth forecast** from **7% to 6.7%** due to weaker-than-expected **Q2 economic data**, now projecting **6.3% growth**. Despite this downgrade, the firm remains optimistic about a **recovery** in the latter half of FY25, expecting growth to rebound to **6.7-6.8%**, driven by **agricultural output** and **government spending**.
- In the **July-September 2024** quarter, India's **urban unemployment rate** fell to **6.4%**, the lowest in recent years, down from **6.6%** in the previous quarter. **Men's unemployment** decreased to **5.7%**, and **women's unemployment** dropped to **8.4%**. The **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)** increased to **50.4%**, with women's LFPR slightly rising to **25.5%**. The **Worker Population Rate (WPR)** in urban areas was **47.2%**, with **men at 70.7%** and **women at 23.4%**, indicating positive trends in **job creation** and **labor force participation**.
- India's **foreign exchange reserves** dropped by a record **\$17.76 billion** to **\$657.8 billion** for the week ending November 15, 2024, marking the largest weekly decline since 1998. This drop was driven by the **strengthening of the US dollar**, the **Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) intervention** to protect the **rupee**, and falling **gold prices**.
- **S&P Global Ratings** maintained India's **GDP growth forecast** for **FY25** at **6.8%**, but revised **FY26** down to **6.7%** from **6.9%**. The agency raised its **inflation projection** for **FY25** to **4.6%**, citing persistent **food inflation** and **supply shocks** due to **climate factors**. The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, tasked with maintaining **4% ± 2% inflation**, is expected to cut **policy rates** only once this fiscal year, with the **repo rate** steady at **6.5%** since February 2023.

ECONOMY NEWS

- Gross **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** collections in October reached Rs 1.87 lakh crore, marking an **8.9% increase year-on-year**.





- In the fortnight ending November 1, 2024, credit and deposit growth nearly aligned, with credit increasing by 11.9% and deposits growing by 11.83% year-on-year. This marks a shift from the previous period, where credit growth had consistently outpaced deposits, reflecting the impact of RBI's regulatory measures and a slowdown in sectors like unsecured loans and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs).
- India's merchandise exports grew by 17.3% in October 2024, reaching \$39.2 billion, the fastest pace in 28 months. This growth was driven by pre-Christmas inventory buildup in Western countries, boosting demand for products like engineering goods, electronics, chemicals, and garments.
- India's **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)**-based inflation surged to a **4-month high of 2.36% in October**, up from **1.84% in September**.
- India's outward foreign direct investment (FDI) reached \$3.7 billion in October 2024, a notable increase from \$2.55 billion in October 2023, according to the RBI. However, it showed a slight decline from \$3.77 billion in September 2024.
- India's industrial production grew by 3.1% in September 2024, recovering from a 0.1% contraction in August. This growth was driven by strong manufacturing performance and modest increases in electricity generation and mining. However, the growth rate slowed compared to 6.4% in September 2023, signaling a more tempered industrial recovery.
- India's inflation rate for October 2024 stood at 6.21%, with rural areas experiencing higher inflation at 6.68%, compared to 5.62% in urban areas. The Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI) rose by 10.87%, with rural inflation at 10.69% and urban inflation at 11.09%.
- National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) has launched its **official mobile app**, NSEIndia, and expanded its corporate website to support a **total of 12 languages**. This initiative aims to create a more inclusive financial ecosystem for millions of investors across India, allowing them to access market information in their preferred regional languages.
- In **FY24**, the Union Government collected **₹16,398 crore** in **GST** from **health and life insurance services**, marking a **680% increase** from **FY20**. However, this was a slight decrease from **₹16,770 crore** in **FY23**. **Life insurance** contributed **₹8,135 crore**, while **health insurance** contributed **₹8,263 crore**. Additionally, **₹2,045 crore** was raised from **reinsurance services**, with **₹561 crore** from life reinsurance and **₹1,484 crore** from health reinsurance. **Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana** and **Jan Arogya Bima Policy** remain exempt from **GST**.
- India's **GDP growth** slowed to **5.4%** in Q2 FY 2024-25, down from **6.7%** in Q1, marking the lowest growth in **seven quarters**. **Gross Value Added (GVA)** growth also dropped to **5.8%** from **6.8%** in Q1. Compared to **Q2 FY 2023-24**, when GDP grew at **8.1%**, the current slowdown highlights significant **economic challenges**.

- India's **core sector growth rose to 3.1% in October**, marking a recovery after a contraction in August. This growth, driven by coal, refinery products, and steel, follows a 2.4% increase in September. The core sector, which makes up 40% of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), showed signs of improvement despite challenges in crude oil and natural gas.

BUSINESS NEWS

- **GAIL (India) Limited and VERBIO India** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to jointly develop agricultural residue-based **compressed biogas (CBG)** projects in India. This collaboration aims to turn agricultural waste into renewable energy, aligning with India's climate objectives and enhancing rural incomes.
- **Jio Financial Services Limited (JFSL)** has introduced **SmartGold**, a digital gold investment platform, allowing customers to invest in **24-karat physical gold** through the **JioFinance app**. This offering aligns with the company's broader strategy to enhance financial services accessibility during the **auspicious Dhanteras season**.
- **Jio Financial Services Ltd (JFSL) and BlackRock Inc.** officially announced the incorporation of two joint venture companies, **Jio BlackRock Asset Management Private Limited** and **Jio BlackRock Trustee Private Limited**, to enter the mutual fund sector in India.
- **Tata Power** has teamed up with **Noida International Airport (NIA)** to invest **Rs 550 crore** in renewable energy, including a **13 MW solar facility** and **10.8 MW of wind power**. This partnership supports NIA's sustainability goals and **Tata Power's** commitment to sustainable infrastructure in India's aviation sector.
- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has approved a **\$200 million loan** to improve urban infrastructure and climate resilience in **Uttarakhand** through the **Uttarakhand Livability Improvement Project**.
- **Reliance Industries and Walt Disney** have finalized an **\$8.5 billion merger** of their Indian media assets, concluded on **14th November**.
- **Nvidia and SoftBank Corp** have unveiled the world's first **AI and 5G-integrated telecom network, 5G AI-RAN**, which transforms base stations into AI-powered computing hubs. This innovation, launched through the **AI-RAN Alliance** at **Mobile World Congress**, marks a major leap in telecom technology by enabling simultaneous management of **AI and 5G operations**.
- **NTPC Limited and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)** have launched a **50:50 Joint Venture Company (JVC)** through their green energy subsidiaries, **NTPC Green Energy Ltd. (NGEL)** and **ONGC Green Energy Ltd. (OGL)**. This collaboration, approved by **DIPAM and NITI Aayog**, aims to accelerate India's renewable and new energy objectives.
- **BEML Limited** has received the "Self-Certification" status for its defense equipment from the **Department of Defence Production, Government of India**. The certification was presented to **BEML's Chairman and MD, Shantanu Roy**, by **RA Govardhana** during an event at the company's headquarters.





- Royal Enfield has recently unveiled its highly anticipated **electric vehicle (EV)** brand, “Flying Flea”, an homage to one of the brand’s most iconic models.
- The International Finance Corporation (IFC) has partnered with Bajaj Finance Ltd. (BFL), committing \$400 million as part of a \$1 billion initiative to boost access to climate finance in India. The investment will focus on financing electric vehicles (EVs), energy-efficient consumer goods (EECG), and women-owned micro-enterprises, supporting India’s climate goals and promoting financial inclusion.
- **Tata Electronics** has acquired a **60% stake** in **Pegatron’s iPhone plant** in **Tamil Nadu**, India, marking a significant step in strengthening Tata’s role as a major **Apple supplier**. This deal signifies a shift in the **geopolitical supply chain**, with **India** emerging as a key hub for **iPhone manufacturing**. The **joint venture** will see Tata managing daily operations, while Pegatron will offer **technical support**.
- **Punit Goenka**, the **Managing Director (MD)** and **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of **Zee Entertainment Enterprises**, resigned from his role as MD but will remain as CEO. This decision comes just days before a shareholders’ meeting where Goenka was set to seek approval for a new five-year term as MD and CEO, starting January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2029.
- Meta plans to appeal a **₹213.14 crore** fine imposed by the **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** over its **2021 WhatsApp privacy policy update**. CCI accuses Meta of **anti-competitive practices**, alleging the company forced users to accept new **data-sharing terms**, a claim Meta denies.
- On November 21, 2024, **Kenyan President William Ruto** announced the **cancellation** of multimillion-dollar deals with **Indian business tycoon Gautam Adani**, citing concerns over **bribery** and **fraud allegations**. This decision follows **U.S. indictments** against Adani, one of Asia’s richest men, accusing him of **securities fraud** and a **bribery scheme** related to a **solar energy project** in India.
- India has signed a **historic Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA)** with **Switzerland, Iceland, Norway, and Liechtenstein** (forming the **European Free Trade Association (EFTA)**). The agreement grants India access to **99.6% of EFTA’s market**, with projections of **\$100 billion in FDI** and **1 million direct jobs** over the next 15 years. It aims to boost India’s **global market position** and support initiatives like “**Make in India**” and “**Atmanirbhar Bharat**.”
- The **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** established a **strategy cell** in **Coimbatore** to help **manufacturing SMEs** develop sustainable growth strategies and compete globally. The cell offers **expert mentorship**, strategic advice, and support for **6 to 12 months** to help businesses scale. The initiative aims to make local industries **global players** with tailored support from a team of **six experts**.
- India’s **milk production** reached **239.30 million tonnes** in 2023-24, a **3.78% increase**, maintaining its position as the world’s largest producer. The growth, driven by better **milch cattle productivity** and higher **per capita milk availability**, was highlighted by **Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh** on

National Milk Day. Per capita milk availability rose from **459 gm** to **471 gm** per day. Despite a slight slowdown, India continues to lead globally in milk production and aims to boost **milk exports**.

- India has secured a **\$98 million loan** from the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** to boost **horticulture productivity** through **plant health management**. The funding supports the **Atmanirbhar Clean Plant Programme (CPP)**, focusing on **disease-free planting material** systems to improve crop yield, quality, and climate resilience. The project, led by the **Ministry of Agriculture**, involves collaboration with the **National Horticulture Board, Indian Council of Agricultural Research**, and other stakeholders. Key objectives include setting up **clean plant centres** and enhancing regulatory frameworks for plant health.

Economy/Financial Current Affairs of October 2024

- India’s foreign exchange reserves reached a record high of **\$692.3 billion as of September 20**, according to data released by the Reserve Bank of India on September 27. The reserves increased by **\$2.84 billion during the week**, following a **total rise of \$19.3 billion** over the previous five weeks. The rise in reserves was driven by the Reserve Bank of India’s interventions in the forex market and inflows into local stocks and bonds.
- The **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** raised India’s FY25 growth forecast to **6.7%, up from 6.6%**, in its Interim Economic Outlook released on September 25. Inflation is projected to rise to 4.5%, compared to the earlier estimate of 4.3%. The Indian economy is expected to grow even faster at **6.8% in FY26**, marking a **20 basis points increase** from the May forecast.
- The **Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council** has formed a **10-member Group of Ministers (GoM)**, chaired by **Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary**, to address the future taxation of luxury, sin, and demerit goods as the compensation cess is set to expire in March 2026. The GoM’s primary objective is to propose a new taxation structure to replace the compensation cess after its abolition. Currently, the compensation cess, levied at varying rates on specified goods in addition to the 28% GST, was originally intended to last five years following the rollout of GST.
- **BSE and NSE** have announced revisions to their **transaction fees, effective from October 1, 2024**. The changes, which impact various segments, align with SEBI’s July directive mandating a uniform fee structure across market infrastructure institutions (MIIs). This move eliminates the previous slab-based structure and ensures transparency for end clients.
- In the April-June 2024 quarter, **India’s current account deficit (CAD) increased to \$9.7 billion**, or 1.1% of GDP, up from \$8.9 billion (1% of GDP) in Q1 FY2024, according to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). This marginal widening is attributed to a rise in the merchandise trade deficit, which expanded to \$65.1 billion from \$56.7 billion in the previous year. The CAD had recorded a surplus of \$4.6 billion (0.5% of GDP) in the previous January-March quarter.





Economy/Financial Current Affairs of September 2024

- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) celebrates its Eighth Annual Day on **1st October 2024**. Senior officers of the Government and regulatory bodies will grace the occasion. Over the past eight years, the IBC has significantly accelerated the resolution of insolvency cases.
- The **Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI)** serves as a crucial indicator of the industrial health of the economy. In August 2024, the combined index declined by **1.8%** compared to August 2023. However, production in the **Steel** and **Fertilizers** sectors demonstrated positive growth during the same period.
- India's foreign exchange reserves have exceeded **\$700 billion for the first time**, reaching **\$704.89 billion in the week** ending September 27, 2024. This marks a record increase of **\$12.58 billion**, with foreign currency assets (FCAs) rising by \$10.4 billion to \$616 billion and gold reserves increasing by \$2 billion to \$65.7 billion. The surge is attributed to RBI's dollar purchases and favorable valuation adjustments, driven by declining U.S. Treasury yields, a weakening dollar, and rising gold prices.
- India's wholesale price inflation (WPI) increased to **1.84% in September 2024**, up from **1.31% in August**, driven by a sharp rise in food prices, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. This surge was primarily due to a spike in vegetable prices, with onion, potato, and tomato costs rising by **78.8%, 78.1%, and 74.5%, respectively**. The food price inflation rose to 11.53% from 3.11% in August, marking a two-year high. Despite deceleration in other categories such as fuel and manufactured products, food price inflation led the overall increase.
- According to a report released by the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**, the world's total **public debt is poised to surpass \$100 trillion this year for the first time**.
- The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** has maintained its **growth projections for India**, forecasting the economy to expand by **7% in FY25 and 6.5% in FY26**. According to the IMF, the post-pandemic recovery, fueled by pent-up demand, has largely run its course as the economy now aligns with its potential growth trajectory.
- The National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (**NIPFP**) has revised its **growth forecast for India to 6.9-7.1% for FY25**, citing a notable moderation in growth during the June quarter. This slowdown is attributed to a significant contraction in net exports and reduced government consumption due to the implementation of the model code of conduct.

- In August 2024, **India's GST collections reached ₹1.75 lakh crore**, marking a 10% year-on-year growth compared to **₹1.59 lakh crore in August 2023**. This increase reflects robust domestic consumption and higher imports. The central government collected **₹30,862 crore**, while states collected ₹38,411 crore before adjustments. IGST on imports and inter-state sales amounted to ₹93,621 crore.
- The World Bank has revised its growth forecast for the Indian economy, increasing it to **7% for the fiscal year 2024-25**, up from the **earlier estimate of 6.6%**. This adjustment comes **despite a slowdown to 6.7%** in the April-June quarter, attributed to reduced government spending during national elections.
- **Telangana, Tamil Nadu, and Rajasthan** have reported the highest growth in real **Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) for FY24** among the ten largest states based on their GSDP, according to recent data from the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI). The services sector, which contributes significantly to the **Gross Value Added (GVA)** of large states, has played a crucial role in this economic expansion.
- The Labour Bureau, an office of the Ministry of Labour & Employment, releases the **Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) monthly**. The CPI-IW for July 2024 has increased by 1.3 points to 142.7.
- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has cleared the proposal of India's giant business group Tata Motors Finance Limited merger into the **Tata Capital Limited** marking a significant consolidation into Tata group financial services. The merger will be carried out through a scheme of arrangement to be submitted to the **National Company Law Tribunal**.
- **India's Consumer Price Index (CPI)**-based retail inflation rose marginally to **3.65% in August from 3.6% in July**, remaining below the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) medium-term target of 4% for the second time in nearly five years. This slight increase is attributed to a high base effect from the previous year. The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) also saw a modest rise, reaching **4.83% in July compared to 4.72% in June**.
- India has now become the sixth largest market in the **MSCI All Country World Investable Market Index (ACWI IMI)**, surpassing China and narrowly behind France. As of August 2024, India's weight in the index stands at 2.35%, surpassing China's 2.24%, with France just 3 basis points ahead of India. India is also now the largest emerging market (EM) in the MSCI ACWI IMI for the first time.

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- **India** is on track to become the **third largest economy** by fiscal **2030-31**, driven by a **robust projected annual growth rate of 6.7%**, the **credit rating agency S&P Global** said in its report called **India forward Emerging Perspectives**.
- The government has **scrapped the windfall tax on domestically produced crude oil** with effect from September 18. The windfall tax on domestically produced crude oil will be zero, the government said in a notification.
- **India's wholesale price index (WPI)-based inflation** fell to a four-month low of 1.31% in August, down from **2.04% in July**. This decline is primarily attributed to reduced prices of manufactured products and food items. According to data from the Commerce Ministry, food price inflation **decreased to 3.11% in August from 3.45% in July**. Key factors include lower prices in cereals (8.44%), paddy (9.12%), and pulses (18.57%), although onion prices remained high at 65.75%. Conversely, potato prices surged by 77.96%, and fruit prices increased by 16.7% in August.

Economy/Financial Current Affairs of August 2024

- The Ministry of Finance reported that India's fiscal deficit for the **first quarter of FY25** stood at **8.1% of the full-year estimate**, a significant improvement from 25.3% in the same period last year.
- Deloitte's India Economic Outlook for August 2024 predicts strong economic growth **between 7.0% and 7.2% in FY25**, driven by robust economic fundamentals.
- India's industrial production, as measured by the **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)**, grew by **4.2% in June 2024**, marking the slowest growth in **five months**.
- India's urban unemployment rate slightly decreased to **6.6% in Q1 FY25 from 6.7% in Q4 FY24**, as per the **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) data** released by the **National Statistical Office (NSO)**.
- **Foreign direct investment (FDI)** in India's food processing sector experienced a significant decline of **30% in the fiscal year 2023-24**, totaling **Rs 5,037.06 crore, down from Rs 7,194.13 crore in 2022-23**.

Economy/Financial Current Affairs of July 2024

- The World Bank has approved a **second round of \$1.5 billion** in financing to help India accelerate its development of **low-carbon energy**. This funding aims to promote the market for green hydrogen, electrolysers, and increased renewable energy penetration. The initiative aligns with **India's National Green Hydrogen Mission and energy transition targets**, including **achieving 500 GW** of installed renewable energy capacity by 2030 and reaching net zero by 2070.

- In June 2024, India's gross goods and services tax (GST) collection reached **Rs 1.74 trillion**, marking a 7.7% year-on-year growth, lower than previous months' increases of 12.4% in April and 10% in May. Despite this slowdown, cumulative collections for the fiscal year stood at Rs 5.57 trillion. The finance ministry anticipates continued robust collections above Rs 1.6 trillion in the coming months, despite withholding detailed tax figures citing GST regime stability.
- In May 2024, growth in **India's core sector industries** decelerated to **6.3% from 6.7% in April**, driven by varied performance across sectors. Coal and electricity saw accelerated growth due to increased demand during a heat wave, while sectors like cement and fertilizers contracted. Factors such as reduced capex, adequate fertiliser stocks, and lower diesel demand influenced sectoral output. The overall impact of these dynamics reflects on the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), expected to print between **4-5% for May 2024**.
- India's employment growth provisionally rose to **6% in FY24 compared to 3.2% in FY23**, according to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). This increase brought the total employment to 643.3 million, up from 596.7 million the previous year, with 46.7 million jobs created.
- The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) **Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index)**, which measures the extent of financial inclusion across the country, rose to **64.2 in March 2024 from 60.1 in March 2023**. This improvement reflects growth across all sub-indices, indicating a deepening of financial inclusion.
- In June 2024, India's economic landscape witnessed significant growth driven by robust performance in both manufacturing and services sectors. The Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for manufacturing soared, accompanied by strong hiring activity, marking a 19-year high. Concurrently, the **Eight Core Industries Index expanded by 6.5% year-on-year** in the initial months of **FY25**, led by sectors like coal and electricity.
- In June 2024, India's retail inflation reached a **four-month high of 5.08%**, driven by a sharp rise in food prices, particularly vegetables, amidst extended heatwave conditions. This surge marks the 57th consecutive month above the **RBI's 4% target range**, limiting immediate prospects for interest rate cuts.
- In **May 2024, India's industrial output** expanded by **5.9% year-over-year**, marking the **highest growth in seven months**. This growth surpassed expectations, with notable contributions from electricity generation and consumer durables.





- In June 2024, the All India Consumer Price Index (CPI) showed a **year-on-year inflation rate of 5.08%**. This rate varied across rural and urban areas, with rural inflation at 5.66% and urban inflation at 4.39%. Compared to May 2024, inflation for essential sub-groups like 'Eggs', 'Spices', 'Meat & fish', and 'Pulses & products' decreased. The CPI for General Indices and Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI) also showed increases, with rural CFPI notably rising by 9.15%. These figures reflect varied price dynamics impacting different segments of the population across India.
- In June 2024, **India's Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** showed a provisional annual inflation rate of **3.36% compared to June 2023**, driven by increased prices in food articles, manufactured food products, crude petroleum & natural gas, mineral oils, and other manufacturing sectors. The overall **WPI for all commodities rose to 153.9 (base year 2011-12=100)**, marking a month-on-month increase of **0.39% from May 2024**.

Economy/Financial Current Affairs of June 2024

- In a significant partnership, Finnish telecom giant **Nokia and Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV)** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to jointly explore advancements in **5G and 6G communications**, specifically targeting transportation and logistics sectors. The agreement, signed in the presence of **Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Chancellor of GSV**, aims to leverage Nokia's expertise in telecommunications to enhance various aspects of transportation and logistics.
- The **Department of School Education** signed an Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with the **National Book Trust** to create an institutional framework for the **Digital Library Platform, Rashtriya e-Pustakalaya**.
- In a significant step towards enhancing investment cooperation between India and Qatar, the inaugural meeting of the **Joint Task Force on Investment (JTFI)** took place in **New Delhi**. Co-chaired by **Ajay Seth, Secretary of India's Department of Economic Affairs**, and **Mohamed bin Hassen Al-Malki, Undersecretary of Qatar's Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, the meeting aimed to fortify bilateral relations and explore avenues for accelerated growth and collaboration across sectors like infrastructure, energy, technology, and innovation.
- In a significant move aimed at addressing the mental health needs of armed forces personnel and their families, the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)** and the Ministry of Defence (MoD) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This collaboration establishes a dedicated **Tele MANAS cell**, the digital extension of the District Mental Health Programme (DMHP), to provide comprehensive, integrated, and inclusive 24/7 tele-mental health services.
- The Centre approved the disbursement of **₹1,39,750 crore in tax devolution to the states for June**, including an additional instalment for accelerated development. This will enable state governments to enhance development and capital spending.
- In its latest biannual Global Economic Prospects, the **World Bank maintains India's growth projection at 6.6% for FY25**, affirming its status as the fastest-growing among the largest economies. The forecast reflects a moderate pace of expansion following a **high growth rate in FY 2023/24**. Over the subsequent three fiscal years, India is expected to sustain an average growth of 6.7%, with projections of 6.7% for FY26 and 6.8% for FY27.
- India's Index of Industrial Production (IIP) recorded a growth rate of **4.9% in March 2024**, showing a slight slowdown primarily attributed to a faltering mining sector. This decline follows a robust 5.6% growth in February 2024 and contrasts sharply with the 1.9% growth seen in March 2023.
- India's consumer price index (**CPI**) **inflation dropped to a 12-month low of 4.75% in May 2024**, down from 4.83% in April, marking a continued trend within the Reserve Bank of India's target range of 2-6% since September 2023.
- India's wholesale inflation, measured by the **wholesale price index (WPI)**, surged to a 15-month high of **2.61% in May from 1.26% in April**, driven by an adverse base effect and a sharp increase in food prices. The inflation rate for food items reached 9.82%, contrasting with -3.61% in May 2023.
- The rationalisation of GST rates is under **preliminary assessment** to address imbalances and avoid the inverted duty structure where the **final product's tax is lower than that on inputs**. Although the industry has called for **rationalisation**, involving reworking rates and merging the four slabs into three, the government plans to proceed cautiously with a detailed analysis.





Business Current Affairs

Business Current Affairs of October 2024

- **Shankh Air, India's latest airline**, is poised to make its debut by the end of 2024 after receiving approval from the civil aviation ministry. This marks a significant development for **Uttar Pradesh as Shankh Air** aims to become the **state's first scheduled airline**, establishing hubs in Lucknow and the upcoming Noida International Airport. The airline plans to focus on both inter- and intra-state routes, targeting areas with high demand and limited direct flight options.
- **Anil Ambani's Reliance Group** is making significant strides into **Bhutan's renewable energy sector** by planning the development of 1,270 megawatts of solar and hydroelectric power projects. In a strategic partnership with Druk Holding and Investments Ltd (**DHI**), the commercial arm of the Bhutanese government.
- In a new partnership aimed at enhancing sustainability, the Adani Group will supply renewable energy from its upcoming **solar-wind hybrid** project in **Khavda, Gujarat, to Google starting in 2025**. The Khavda project, located in the world's largest renewable energy facility, is set to begin commercial operations in Q3 2025. With a strong track record in large-scale renewable projects, Adani will provide tailored energy solutions to support Google's carbon-free energy goal and help reduce the carbon footprints of industrial clients.
- **PFC (Power Finance Corporation)**, a **Maharatna company** and leading NBFC in the Indian power and infrastructure sector, announced the successful closing of issuance of the largest-ever foreign currency term loan from an Indian PSU amounting to **USD 1.265 billion**. This landmark transaction was executed through a facility agreement with multiple banks based in **IFSC GIFT City, Gandhinagar**.
- **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** approved a **\$162 million loan** to enhance **tourism development in Himachal Pradesh**. This funding, aimed at reviving the tourism economy in the five districts severely affected by the pandemic—Hamirpur, Kangra, Kullu, Mandi, and Shimla—will support the Sustainable and Inclusive Tourism Development Project. The project targets the promotion of heritage and cultural sites while developing new infrastructure, ultimately unlocking the state's tourism potential.
- Reliance's beauty platform **Tira** announced the launch of globally luxury skincare and haircare brand **Augustinus Bader** for the Indian Market. Known for its scientifically advanced and award-winning formulas, Augustinus Bader products are now available exclusively on Tira.
- In line with its focus on enhancing the welfare of **Naval Civilians**, the **Indian Navy** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance**. This initiative is a key highlight of 2024, declared as the **"Year of Naval Civilians."** It underscores the Navy's commitment to financial security and inclusivity for its civilian workforce, particularly by offering affordable life insurance options, including term insurance, to safeguard their families in the event of an untimely death.
- **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** has been upgraded to the status of Maharatna, making it the **14th Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE)** to receive this prestigious classification from the Government of India.
- **Navi, a fintech company co-founded by Sachin Bansal**, has made significant strides in the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) landscape, emerging as **India's fifth-largest ecosystem player**. In September, the company achieved remarkable transaction volumes, **processing 120.41 million transactions valued at Rs 6,549.1 crore**. This growth underscores Navi's expanding presence in the highly competitive UPI market, which is dominated by major players like PhonePe, Google Pay, and Paytm.
- **Global index provider FTSE Russell** has announced that India's sovereign bonds will be included in its Emerging Markets Government Bond Index (**EMGBI**) starting September 2025. This follows similar inclusions by JP Morgan and Bloomberg Index Services, which could potentially attract billions of dollars into India's local bond market. Additionally, **South Korean government bonds** are set to be added to the **FTSE World Government Bond Index (WGBI) in November 2025** after spending two years on the watch list.
- Paytm has received approval from the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** to onboard new UPI users, ending a nine-month embargo imposed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). This decision is expected to increase Paytm's UPI transaction volumes and boost its market position.
- Deloitte **India's latest Economic Outlook** projects that India's economy will grow between **7.0% and 7.2%** in the fiscal year 2024-25, despite a recent slowdown where GDP expanded by only 6.7% year-on-year in Q1 of FY25.
- Freo, the digital finance application, has received a corporate agent license from the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)**, allowing it to offer a range of customized insurance products to its 25 million users. This initiative comes amid India's low insurance penetration rate of **approximately 4.2%**, which is significantly below the **global average of 7%**.





- The **International Copper Association (ICA)** is a prominent global industry body that brings together major copper producers worldwide. Representing **50% of the world's copper production**, ICA is a **not-for-profit trade association** comprising 33 member organizations spanning six continents.
- **Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries** has teamed up with **US chipmaker Nvidia** to establish AI infrastructure in India, announced during the **Nvidia AI Summit 2024 in Mumbai**. This collaboration aims to position India as a leading intelligence market, with plans to deploy **Nvidia's GB 200** supercomputer technology for large-scale AI capabilities.
- **Nvidia has officially dethroned Apple** as the world's most valuable company, achieving this milestone on Friday after a remarkable surge in its stock price driven by soaring demand for its cutting-edge supercomputing AI chips. At one point, **Nvidia's market value soared to an impressive \$3.53 trillion**, just edging out **Apple, which was valued at \$3.52 trillion**, according to data from LSEG.
- **GAIL (India) Limited and VERBIO India** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to jointly develop agricultural residue-based **compressed biogas (CBG)** projects in India. This collaboration aims to turn agricultural waste into renewable energy, aligning with India's climate objectives and enhancing rural incomes.
- **Jio Financial Services Limited (JFSL)** has introduced **SmartGold**, a digital gold investment platform, allowing customers to invest in **24-karat physical gold** through the **JioFinance app**. This offering aligns with the company's broader strategy to enhance financial services accessibility during the **auspicious Dhanteras season**.
- Jio Financial Services Ltd (JFSL) and BlackRock Inc. officially announced the incorporation of two joint venture companies, **Jio BlackRock Asset Management Private Limited** and **Jio BlackRock Trustee Private Limited**, to enter the mutual fund sector in India.
- **Paysharp**, an emerging startup from Tamil Nadu, has achieved a major milestone. On **August 30, 2024**, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** granted Paysharp its final authorization, cementing the company's position in India's dynamic payment system ecosystem.
- **Adani Airports Holdings Limited (AAHL)** launched an application '**Aviio**' for the future Airport ecosystem, which generally provides real time information like waiting times, gate change, baggage updates etc, this will enhance airport operations.
- **The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has increased the transaction limits for tax payments using **UPI (Unified Payment Interface)**, by allowing people to send **5 lakh in a single transaction**.
- India's private sector bank **HDFC looks to increase the income of 5 lakh marginal farmers** who earn less than 60,000 annually by 2025, as part of **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Parivartan**.
- The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has selected Infosys to develop its **next-generation digital platform** as part of its **DIVE (Digital Innovation and Value Enhancement)** programme. This new platform will serve as an integrated end-to-end solution, enhancing customer services, business lifecycle management, and operational activities for sales intermediaries, while also offering a digital front-end for branch employees.
- **VisioNxt**, launched by the **National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT)**, is a fashion forecasting initiative aimed at fostering global competition and elevating Indian culture and design. Combining Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Emotional Intelligence (EI), it provides trend insights tailored to India's socio-economic and cultural diversity.
- **Paisabazaar**, India's leading online marketplace for consumer credit and free credit score platform, has partnered with **YES BANK**, India's sixth largest private sector bank, to unveil their co-branded credit card – **YES BANK Paisabazaar PaisaSave Credit Card**.
- **Tata Steel** has successfully commissioned **India's largest blast furnace** at its **Kalinganagar facility in Odisha**, marking a significant milestone for the steel sector. With a total investment of **Rs 27,000 crore**, this Phase II expansion will increase the plant's capacity from 3 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) to 8 MTPA.

Business Current Affairs of September 2024

- **Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)** has made history as the first Indian company to exceed ₹10 lakh crore in annual revenue. This milestone was revealed during **RIL's Annual General Meeting (AGM) by Chairman Mukesh Ambani**. For the financial year 2023-24, Reliance achieved a record consolidated turnover of ₹10,00,122 crore (USD 119.9 billion), with a net profit of ₹79,020 crore (USD 9.5 billion).
- **POP, a fintech startup** founded by **former Flipkart employees**, has introduced India's first multi-brand co-branded credit card in partnership with RuPay and Yes Bank. This innovative card, known as the **YEB BANK POP-CLUB RuPay credit card**, integrates major brands like Zomato, Blinkit, Cult, Rapido, Cleartrip, and Pharmeasy to address key daily spending areas, including e-commerce, groceries, food and beverages, travel, and health and fitness.

Business Current Affairs of August 2024

- **NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL)** has achieved a major milestone by surpassing 100,000 cross-border Unified Payments Interface (UPI) Person-to-Merchant (P2M) transactions in Nepal.
- Bharti Global, the international investment arm of Bharti Enterprises, is set to **acquire a 24.5% stake** in the **British telecom giant BT Group plc** for approximately **\$4 billion**.





- **India's retail inflation rate**, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), fell to **3.54% in July**, reaching a nearly 5-year low.
- India's net direct tax collection surged by **22.5% to Rs 6.93 trillion** from **April 1 to August 11, FY25**, compared to Rs 5.65 trillion in the same period last year.
- **Amazon India and Gentari Green Mobility India** have announced a strategic partnership aimed at significantly boosting **Amazon's electric vehicle (EV)** fleet for last-mile deliveries.
- **State-owned Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL)** has been awarded a significant contract by **Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC)** to set up a **1,600 MW thermal power project**.
- RBL Bank has introduced a special "**Vijay Fixed Deposits**" scheme to commemorate **India's 78th Independence Day**.
- **L&T Finance Ltd.** has transitioned from an **NBFC-Core Investment Company (NBFC-CIC)** to a Non-Banking Financial Company (Investment and Credit Company) (**NBFC-ICC**) following the merger of its wholly-owned subsidiaries, including L&T Finance, L&T Infra Credit Ltd., and L&T Mutual Fund Trustee Ltd.
- The latest "**Men and Women**" report by the **National Statistical Office (NSO)** reveals a stark financial disparity between **men and women in India**. While women own a significant portion of bank accounts.
- China has approved the construction of **11 new nuclear reactors across five sites**, with a total investment of approximately **220 billion yuan (\$31 billion)**.
- Fintech company Slice has received approval from the **National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)** for its merger with **North East Small Finance Bank**.
- **Amul** has been named the world's strongest food brand in **Brand Finance's Global Food & Drinks Report 2024**.
- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has unveiled a new feature called '**UPI Circle**' on the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI) platform**, allowing primary UPI account holders to securely delegate payment responsibilities to trusted secondary users.
- In a recent development, **Zomato** has approved the acquisition of **Paytm's entertainment and ticketing business for ₹2,048 crore** in a cash deal.
- **PhonePe** on August 22, announced the **launch of Credit Line on UPI** on its platform. Consumers who avail credit lines from their banks can now link these **credit lines to UPI** on **PhonePe** and seamlessly make merchant payments.
- **Flipkart's Supply Chain Operations Academy (SCOA)** exchanged a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** at the Samarth event with the mission to upskill thousands of employable youth across India.
- **Tata AIA Life Insurance** has recently unveiled its latest offering in the term insurance segment – **Sampoorna Raksha Promise**. This innovative product is designed to provide enhanced financial security to policyholders and their families, addressing various aspects of life insurance needs.
- Piramal Finance, a subsidiary of **Piramal Enterprises Limited**, has partnered with the Central Bank of India to expand co-lending operations aimed at supporting underserved markets.
- **Amazon**, the global e-commerce giant, has announced the beta launch of **Rufus**, a cutting-edge **generative AI-powered conversational shopping assistant**, in India.
- **Bharti Airtel** has unveiled a **new content partnership with Apple**, set to offer exclusive **Apple Music and Apple TV+** deals to customers in India later this year. As part of this collaboration, **Apple TV+** will be integrated into **Airtel's Xstream** video-streaming service available through premium Wi-Fi and postpaid plans.
- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has unveiled its **fifth TCS Pace Studio in Manila, Philippines**, aiming to drive digital innovation across the **Asia-Pacific region**.
- During Reliance Industries' 47th Annual General Meeting (AGM), Chairman **Mukesh Ambani** announced a groundbreaking development in the field of artificial intelligence. The company's telecom arm, **Reliance Jio**, is set to launch a comprehensive suite of AI tools and applications called '**Jio Brain**'.
- **Infosys** has expanded its **partnership with NVIDIA** to develop generative AI solutions tailored for telecom operators. Utilizing **NVIDIA's NIM inference microservices**, NeMo Retriever models, NeMo Guardrails, and Riva. Infosys aims to enhance telecommunication operations and customer service. Early results show significant improvements in latency and accuracy.
- **Mastercard** has globally debuted its **Payment Passkey Service in India**, aiming to enhance online shopping security and convenience. Unveiled at the **Global Fintech Fest in Mumbai**, this service, initially piloted with Indian payment leaders like **Juspay, Razorpay, and PayU**, along with banks such as Axis Bank, leverages biometric authentication—replacing traditional passwords and OTPs with more secure fingerprint or facial recognition methods.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has expanded the scope of remittances to **International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs)** under the **Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS)**. This allows resident Indians to open fixed deposits in dollars at GIFT IFSC, facilitating various financial services and products as per the **International Financial Services Centres Authority Act, 2019**.





Business Current Affairs of July 2024

- Tata Group has maintained its position as **India's most valuable brand** with a value of **US\$ 28.6 billion**, marking a **9% increase from last year**. Infosys ranks second, and HDFC Group has surged to third place following its merger with HDFC Ltd.
- One 97 Communications Limited, the parent company of Paytm, has introduced '**Paytm Health Saathi**', an affordable healthcare and income protection plan tailored for its merchant partners. Available through the '**Paytm for Business**' app, this initiative aims to support the well-being and business continuity of Paytm's extensive network of merchants.
- **Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd** has undergone a transformation, rebranding itself to **Sammaan Capital Ltd**. This change reflects its shift from a promoter-led entity to a board-run, diversified financial institution. The rebranding, effective upon receipt of regulatory approvals, marks a significant milestone in the company's 25-year journey since its inception as Indiabulls Financial Services Limited in 2000.
- Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), a '**Maharatna**' and **Fortune Global 500 Company**, has proudly announced its role as the official **Principal Partner of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) for four years**, spanning from the **Paris Olympics in 2024** to the **Los Angeles Olympics in 2028**.
- Tata Power Solar Systems Limited has launched the '**Ghar Ghar Solar**' initiative in **Uttar Pradesh**, starting from **Varanasi**, aimed at providing every home with clean energy through rooftop solar solutions. This initiative promises substantial financial savings and environmental benefits for residents.
- **Markets regulator SEBI** has issued **new guidelines to streamline operations** and enhance the ease of doing business for credit rating agencies. The circular introduces specific timelines for dealing with appeals made by companies regarding rating actions carried out during periodic surveillance of ratings.
- REC Limited, a leading lender in the power sector, has successfully secured a **5-year green loan** amounting to **31.96 billion Japanese yen** (approximately \$200 million). The transaction, facilitated by **Deutsche Bank's Gift City branch**, marks one of the initial yen-denominated green loan deals for the bank in India.
- **Manvi Madhu Kashyap** and two other transgender individuals have made history by becoming the **first transwoman sub-inspectors in Bihar Police**. Despite facing rejection and discrimination from coaching centers, Kashyap persevered and cleared the Bihar Police Subordinate Selection Commission (BPSSC) exams.

- **Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA)** has launched the trial operation of the **world's first electric abra manufactured using 3D printing technology**, in collaboration with the private sector. The abra, which can carry 20 passengers, was designed, and built to retain the traditional abra identity.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated **India's longest and largest urban tunnel project**, the **Thane Borivali Twin Tunnel**, developed by the **Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA)**. This **Rs. 16,600 crore** project will reduce travel time between Thane and Borivali from over an hour to just 12 minutes, cutting the travel distance by 12 km. This initiative is part of broader infrastructure projects worth **Rs. 29,000 crore** aimed at enhancing connectivity in Mumbai.
- **Ratings agency ICRA** has upgraded the rating of **Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ)** to **AAA/Stable** from **AA+/Stable**. The company's long-term fund based/non-fund based facilities, non-convertible debentures (NCDs) and commercial papers have been upgraded to **AAA/Stable**. APSEZ announced the development after market hours and the Adani Ports shares on July 18 ended at **Rs 1,491.95** on the NSE, down by **Rs 7.10** or **0.47%**.
- **Dr Neeraj Mittal**, Secretary (Telecom) has inaugurated a **centre of excellence** on "**Classical and Quantum Communications for 6G**" at **IITM Research Park, Chennai**. This is a **sub-centre of Telecom Centres of Excellence (TCoE)-India** and it will spearhead the development and deployment of 6G technology, promising unprecedented speeds, ultra-low latency, and enhanced connectivity. **Shri Sanjeev Kumar Bidwai, Sp DGT, Tamil Nadu** was among those present at the occasion.
- **ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL)**, a subsidiary of ONGC, has acquired **Norwegian firm Equinor's stake in Azerbaijan's offshore Azeri Chirag Gunashli (ACG) oil field** and an associated **oil pipeline for \$60 million**. This increases OVL's stake in the oil field to **2.95%** and in the **Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) pipeline to 3.097%**.
- **Airbus and Tata** are joining forces to manufacture India's first H125 helicopter, which is set to roll out by 2026.
- **The Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA)** is set to develop India's first integrated agricultural export facility at Jawaharlal Nehru Port in Mumbai.

Business Current Affairs of June 2024

- Unified Payments Interface (**UPI**) achieved a **record-breaking 14.04 billion transactions in May**, marking a significant increase from the 13.30 billion transactions recorded in April. This reflects a **49% year-on-year growth**. The total transaction value reached **Rs 20.45 lakh crore**, with an average daily transaction count of 453 million and an average daily transaction value of **Rs 65,966 crore**.



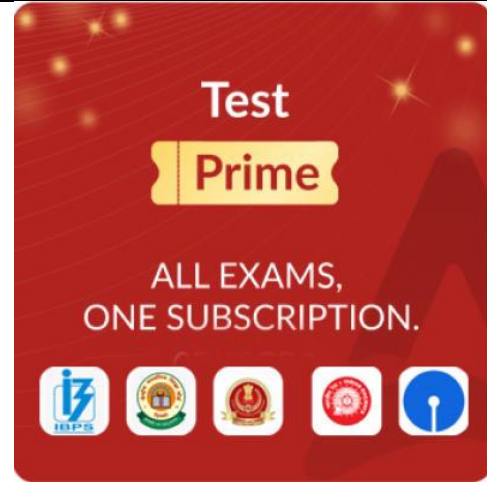


- **Ashok Leyland**, the Indian flagship of the **Hinduja Group** and one of the country's leading commercial manufacturers, launched '**Sarathi Suraksha Policy**' a **comprehensive insurance policy for safeguarding the driver community**
- **SEBI**, the Securities and Exchange Board of India, has launched "**Saathi 2.0**," a mobile app designed to provide comprehensive tools for simplifying complex financial concepts and empowering investors with reliable information. The app features modules on various financial aspects like KYC procedures, mutual funds, ETFs, buying and selling shares, investor grievances redressal, and an Online Dispute Resolution platform. It also offers educational videos to assist investors in their personal finance planning.
- Adani One, the digital platform of the Adani Group, and ICICI Bank have introduced two variants of co-branded credit cards in partnership with Visa. This launch signifies Adani Group's entry into the retail financial sector, **offering cardholders up to 7%** Adani reward points on spending within the **Adani ecosystem**.
- Arka Fincap Limited, a subsidiary of **Kirloskar Oil Engines Limited**, has obtained a Corporate Agency License from the **IRDAI**, marking a significant milestone. This license allows Arka to venture into insurance distribution, enhancing its existing financial solutions portfolio to meet customer needs comprehensively.
- **Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)** is set to develop a **global economic hub in Navi Mumbai**, having secured sub-leases on approximately **3,750 acres of land for Rs 13,400 crore**. The lease spans 43 years and stems from a **memorandum of understanding signed with the Maharashtra government in 2018**.
- Muthoot Microfin Limited has entered into a strategic **co-lending partnership** with the State Bank of India (SBI). This collaboration aims to extend financial services to women entrepreneurs in rural and semi-urban areas across India. Under this agreement, both entities will co-lend to **Joint Liability Groups (JLGs)** engaged in agricultural, allied activities, and other income-generating enterprises. The loan amounts, ranging from Rs 10,000 to Rs 3,00,000, are tailored to provide substantial support to women entrepreneurs in rural regions.
- The **National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)** has granted approval for the merger of Air India and Vistara, marking a significant step towards the formation of one of the world's largest airline groups. This merger, announced in **November 2022**, will see Singapore Airlines holding a 25.1% stake in Air India, which is set to be completed by the end of this year.
- The **Export-Import Bank of India (India Exim Bank)** inaugurated its **East Africa Representative Office in Nairobi, Kenya**, aiming to expand India's business footprint in the resource-rich and demographically young continent of East Africa.
- The Indian digital payment company **PhonePe** has announced a partnership with **Sri Lankan ride-hailing platform PickMe**. This collaboration allows Indian travelers in Sri Lanka to use PhonePe's UPI payment option to pay for PickMe rides, enabling cashless transactions and enhancing travel convenience.
- **GAIL (India)** plans to establish a 1500 KTA Ethane Cracker Project in Sehore, Madhya Pradesh, with an estimated capex of Rs 60,000 crore. The project aims to produce a range of ethylene derivatives, bolstering the petrochemical infrastructure in the region.
- **Aurionpro Payments**, a subsidiary of Aurionpro Solutions, has received approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as an online payment aggregator under the Payments Settlements Act, 2007. This authorization allows the Mumbai-based company to offer digital payment services to merchants nationwide through its payment gateway brand, AuroPay.
- India's equity market has once again outpaced **Hong Kong**, **securing the position as the world's fourth-largest by market capitalization**. With India's market value soaring to \$5.2 trillion, bolstered by a 10% surge following a post-election market rebound, it now leads Hong Kong, which stands at \$5.17 trillion after a 5.4% decline from its peak this year. This marks a significant shift in global market rankings, reflecting India's robust economic fundamentals and investor confidence.
- The International Finance Corporation (IFC), part of the **World Bank Group**, has committed **\$105 million** (approximately Rs 871 crore) to **Brookfield's Bikaner Solar Power project in Rajasthan**. This investment will be in the form of non-convertible debentures, supporting the expansion of renewable energy infrastructure in India.
- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has teamed up with **Ria Money Transfer**, a global leader in cross-border money transfers and a business segment of **Euronet Worldwide, Inc.**, to offer innovative remittance services in rural India. This collaboration aims to provide convenient and affordable financial services directly to the doorsteps of customers in remote areas.
- **SabPaisa (SRS Live Technologies Private Limited)**, a payment solutions provider, has announced that the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has granted final approval to operate as a **Payment Aggregator (PA)** under the **Payments and Settlement Systems Act of 2007**.
- Indian funds in Swiss banks have plummeted by **70% in 2023**, reaching a **four-year low of 1.04 billion Swiss Francs (₹9,771 crore)**, according to the **Swiss National Bank (SNB)**. This marks a significant decline after a peak in 2021 and is attributed to decreases in bonds, securities, and other financial instruments.





- At its Golden Jubilee celebration, Central Electronics Limited (CEL) was honored with **“Mini RATNA” status (Category-1) by Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh**. This recognition underscores CEL’s transformation from a loss-making PSU to a profitable entity, achieving a net profit of approximately **Rs 58 crore** and consistently paying dividends to the Government of India for three consecutive years.
- The **Uttar Pradesh Cabinet** approved **Tata Sons’ proposal** to build a **‘museum of temples’** in Ayodhya, a project worth **Rs 650 crore** to be funded through **Tata’s corporate** social responsibility fund.
- **Mindspace Business Parks REIT**, the owner and developer of quality Grade A office portfolio, has announced its **₹650 crore Sustainability Linked Bond issuance** placed with the **International Finance Corporation (IFC)**.



Defense Current Affairs

Defense Current Affairs of December 2024

EXERCISE

EXERCISE NAME	VENUE / PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES	KEY NOTES
CINBAX	Indian Army and Cambodian Army	The Indian Army and Cambodian Army have begun their first-ever Joint Table Top Exercise, CINBAX , in Pune from 1st to 8th December 2024 . The exercise, involving 20 personnel from each army, focuses on counter-terrorism operations under UN Charter Chapter VII to enhance strategic cooperation, trust, and interoperability .
HARIMAU SHAKTI	India-Malaysia	The 4th India-Malaysia Joint Military Exercise, HARIMAU SHAKTI , began on December 2, 2024 , at Bentong Camp, Malaysia . Running until December 15 , the exercise aims to strengthen military cooperation, focusing on counterinsurgency operations in jungle terrain .

DEAL & MoU’s

- **Adani Defence** has delivered the **Drishti-10 Starliner drone** to the **Indian Navy**, enhancing India's maritime surveillance capabilities. The drone features **36-hour endurance, 450 kg payload**, and is NATO certified for **all-weather military operations**. Designed for **intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR)**, it offers **persistent, autonomous monitoring** of maritime threats, supporting **satellite communication-based operations**.
- The **Biden administration** has approved a **\$1.17 billion deal** under the **Foreign Military Sales (FMS)** program to provide advanced **communication systems, sensors, and logistical support** for India’s **Sikorsky MH-60R helicopters**. This deal strengthens the **India-US defense partnership** and aims to counter challenges in the **Indian Ocean Region**. The **MH-60R helicopters** are equipped with **anti-submarine warfare** capabilities, including **Mk 54 torpedoes** and **Hellfire missiles**, along with advanced **radar and sonar systems**.
- **Amit Shah**, India’s **Union Home Minister**, announced the creation of a comprehensive **anti-drone unit** to counter drone-related threats, particularly along borders. A **laser-equipped anti-drone gun mount system** has been developed through collaboration with the **BSF, Ministry of Defence, DRDO**, and Indian research departments. The system has significantly improved drone interception, with the **neutralisation rate** along **Punjab's International Border** rising from **3% to 55%**.
- India is finalizing a **USD 4 billion** defense deal with **Russia** to acquire an advanced **Voronezh radar** system, enhancing missile detection and air defense. The radar can track ballistic missiles and aircraft up to **8,000 kilometers**, extending India’s surveillance capabilities and supporting the **Make in India** initiative.





ARMY, NAVY & AIR FORCE NEWS

- **INS Tushil**, a Russian-built guided missile frigate, was commissioned into the **Indian Navy** at **Kaliningrad**, Russia, in the presence of **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** and **Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi**. This marks a significant milestone in **India-Russia naval cooperation** and strengthens India's maritime capabilities amid increasing **Chinese presence** in the **Indian Ocean**. The warship is part of a **2016 deal** for four **stealth frigates** to enhance India's naval power.

Defense Current Affairs of November 2024

EXERCISE

EXERCISE NAME	VENUE / PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES	KEY NOTES
Special Forces Exercise, VAJRA PRAHAR	Idaho, USA	Indian Army contingent embarked on a journey to participate in the 15th edition of the India-US joint Special Forces Exercise, VAJRA PRAHAR , set to be conducted from November 2 to November 22, 2024 . This prestigious exercise will take place at the Orchard Combat Training Centre in Idaho, USA , marking a significant step toward bolstering military cooperation and tactical interoperability between the two nations.
GARUD SHAKTI 24	Jakarta, Indonesia	The Indian Army contingent, consisting of 25 skilled personnel from The Parachute Regiment (Special Forces) , recently embarked on a journey to Cijantung, Jakarta, Indonesia to participate in the 9th edition of the India-Indonesia Joint Special Forces Exercise, GARUD SHAKTI 24 . Scheduled to take place from November 1 to November 12, 2024 , this exercise is a testament to the strong military cooperation and shared strategic interests between India and Indonesia.
Sea Vigil-24	Coastal states and union territories of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The exercise will cover India's entire coastline and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) • Covers 11,098 km of coastline and 2.4 million sq km Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) • CDSRE phase began in late October with audits across coastal states, Union Territories, Lakshadweep, and Andaman & Nicobar Islands • Safeguarding ports, oil rigs, Single Point Moorings, Cable Landing Points, and critical infrastructure
VINBAX 2024	Vietnam-India	The 5th edition of the Vietnam-India Bilateral Army Exercise, "VINBAX 2024," began at Ambala the exercise will take place at both Ambala and Chandimandir , aiming to strengthen military cooperation and interoperability between the two nations.
Poorvi Prahaar	Tri-services military exercise	This 10-day exercise follows the recent disengagement between Indian and Chinese troops at key friction points in eastern Ladakh, including Depsang and Demchok , and underscores India's commitment to enhanced defense capabilities.
AUSTRAHIND	India and Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The third edition of the joint military exercise AUSTRAHIND commenced today at the Foreign Training Node in Pune, Maharashtra. • Promote military cooperation between India and Australia • Enhance interoperability in joint sub-conventional operations
Sanyukt Vimochan 2024	Indian Army	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Indian Army successfully conducted the "Sanyukt Vimochan 2024" exercise, a Multilateral Annual Joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) event, in Ahmedabad and Porbandar, Gujarat on November 18-19, 2024. • The exercise demonstrated India's readiness and collaborative capabilities in disaster response and was attended by various national and international agencies, including Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Upendra Dwivedi.
SAREX-24		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) will host the 11th edition of SAREX-24 (National Maritime Search and Rescue Exercises & Workshop) in Kochi from November 27 to 30, 2024. • Organized under the National Maritime Search and Rescue (NMSAR) Board, the event aims to enhance India's maritime search and rescue (SAR) capabilities through collaboration with national and international stakeholders.





TESTING

MISSILES NAME	TESTING LOCATION	FEATURES
Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile (LRLACM)	Chandipur, Odisha	Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted the first flight test of the Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile (LRLACM) with a range of 1,000 km. The test took place at the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur, Odisha.
C-295 Full Motion Simulator (FMS) facility	Air Force Station Agra	Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Central Air Command, inaugurated the Indian Air Force (IAF) C-295 Full Motion Simulator (FMS) facility on November 11, 2024, at Air Force Station Agra.
Guided Pinaka Weapon System	Odisha	The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully completed a series of flight tests for the Guided Pinaka Weapon System, conducted as part of the Provisional Staff Qualitative Requirements (PSQR) Validation Trials.
First long-range hypersonic missile	Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha	India successfully conducted the flight trial of its first long-range hypersonic missile on November 16, marking a major milestone in its defense capabilities. The missile, developed by DRDO, can travel at speeds exceeding Mach 5 (over 6,174 km/h) and has a range of over 1,500 km. It is capable of hitting both moving sea targets and static land targets. The test was conducted at Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha, placing India in an exclusive group of nations with hypersonic weapons technology.

DEAL & MoU's

ARMY, NAVY & AIR FORCE NEWS

- India is set to mark a significant milestone in its aerospace industry with the rollout of the first locally assembled **C295 military transport aircraft** from the **Vadodara facility in September 2026**. This initiative, part of the **“Make in India”** campaign, represents a robust collaboration between Airbus and Tata Advanced Systems. The facility was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, highlighting the deepening defense ties between India and Spain.
- **Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL)** launched **two indigenous fast patrol vessels, Adamyra and Akshar**, designed for the Indian Coast Guard, on 28th October. These vessels are intended to enhance the protection of offshore assets, island territories, and conduct surveillance operations.
- The Defence Space Agency is conducting *Antariksha Abhyas – 2024*, a three-day exercise from November 11-13, to simulate and address threats to space-based assets and services, marking a groundbreaking initiative in space defense.
- Chief of Defence Staff **General Anil Chauhan** chaired the **35th Tri-Services Commanders’ Conference (TSTCC)** at the **Southern Naval Command, Kochi**
- In a move to **strengthen Rajasthan’s defence industrial base**, the Army’s Jaipur-based South Western Command has established a think tank named **Gyan Shakti**.
- The **Indian Navy successfully** conducted the third edition of the **Mahasagar summit**, continuing its flagship outreach initiative for maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). Held virtually under the theme, “Training Cooperation to Mitigate Common Maritime Security Challenges in the IOR.
- The **2nd edition of the Indian Military Heritage Festival (IMHF)** is set to begin on November 8, 2024, in New Delhi.
- The **Indian Naval Sailing Vessel (INSV) Tarini** began the second leg of the **Navika Sagar Parikrama-II (NSP-II)** on **November 24, 2024**, after being flagged off by **Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi** on **October 2, 2024**. The expedition, with a **two-woman naval crew**, aims to circumnavigate the globe. This leg, covering **3,400 nautical miles** from **Fremantle, Australia** to **Lyttelton, New Zealand**, underscores India’s commitment to **gender equality, maritime cooperation, and women’s empowerment**. ([Click here to read article](#))





Defense Current Affairs of October 2024

- **8th India-Kazakhstan joint military exercise KAZIND-2024** started at Surya Foreign Training Node, Auli, Uttarakhand. An annual affair, the exercise will end on 13th October. To bid to improve the joint military capability and undertake counter terrorism operations in a sub conventional scenario.
- The Indian Army hosted the much-anticipated “**Army Sports Conclave**” today, highlighting the role of the Indian Army in India’s sporting ecosystem. As India sets its sight on **hosting the 2036 Olympics**, the Army Sports Conclave serves as a crucial platform to align efforts and contribute to this national mission.
- **MALABAR exercise** kick off from 8th October in Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh. It hosted by India, this year’s exercise will see the participation of Australia, Japan, and the United States of America beginning with the Harbour Phase in Visakhapatnam, followed by the sea phase. The exercise conducted from **8th October to 18th October. Malabar 2024 is designed to enhance cooperation and operational capabilities among participating navies.**
- **The Indian Air Force (IAF)** marked its **92nd anniversary on October 6, 2024**, with a stunning air show that attracted an estimated 1.5 million spectators at **Marina Beach, Chennai**. The event, attended by **Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin** and **Air Chief Marshal AP Singh**, showcased the theme “**Sashakt, Saksham, Atmanirbhar**” (Potent, Powerful, Self-reliant), reflecting the IAF’s evolution into a modern and formidable force.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will inaugurate **DefConnect 4.0 on October 7, 2024**, at the Manekshaw Centre in Delhi, marking a major milestone in advancing indigenous defence innovation. Organised by Innovations for **Defence Excellence – Defence Innovation Organisation (IDEX-DIO)** under the Ministry of Defence’s Department of Defence Production, the event brings together various stakeholders to promote collaboration and innovation in the defence ecosystem.
- **The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** successfully carried out three flight-tests of the advanced fourth-generation Very Short Range Air Defence System (**VSHORADS**) at the Pokhran Field Firing Ranges in Rajasthan on October 3-4. The tests mark a significant step in enhancing India’s defense capabilities, showcasing the missile’s precision and reliability in engaging fast-moving aerial targets.
- The Indian Naval Ships **Tir and Shardul**, along with the Indian Coast Guard Ship Veera, from the **First Training Squadron (1TS) of the Indian Navy**, have successfully arrived in **Muscat, Oman**, as part of their long-range training deployment. This visit underscores the Indian Navy’s commitment to enhancing maritime cooperation and strengthening ties with regional partners.
- The Indian Navy has received its latest **large Survey Vessel** for deep water hydrographic mapping specially designed, **Nirdeshak (Yard 3026)**, second of four Survey Vessel (Large) ships, steered by the Indian Navy’s Warship Design Bureau and being built at Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (**GRSE**), Kolkata was delivered to the Indian Navy.
- On October 15, 2024, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh laid the foundation stone for a new **Very Low Frequency (VLF) Station** of the Indian Navy at **Damagundam Reserve Forest, Vikarabad, Telangana**. Covering 2,900 acres and costing Rs 3,200 crore, this facility aims to enhance the Navy’s communication capabilities, facilitating secure and reliable long-distance transmission essential for effective command and control in complex maritime environments.
- On October 14, 2024, the Indian Navy marked a significant milestone with the **launch of the first ship, ‘Samarthak,’** under the **Multi-Purpose Vessel (MPV)** project at **L&T Shipyard in Kattupalli, Chennai**. The vessel was launched by Shashi Tripathi, President of the Navy Welfare and Wellness Association, and the ceremony was presided over by **Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi, Chief of Naval Staff**. This launch reflects the Indian Navy’s commitment to indigenous shipbuilding, aligning with the Government of India’s vision for ‘**Aatmanirbhar Bharat**’ and ‘**Make in India.**’
- The Indian Army is set to embark on a **month-long series of commemorative events from October 17 to November 14, 2024**, to honor the brave soldiers who fought valiantly in the Battle of Walong during the 1962 Sino-Indian War. This year **marks the 62nd Walong Day**, celebrating the courage and sacrifice of those who **defended India’s eastern front**.
- The Indian Coast Guard successfully conducted the coastal security exercise ‘**Sagar Kavach**’ on October 16-17, covering **Gujarat, Daman & Diu**, as well as **Goa and Maharashtra**. The exercise aimed to enhance coastal and maritime security, improve coordination among agencies, and test existing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in response to potential threats such as infiltration and smuggling. **Objective:** The primary aim of Sagar Kavach is to enhance maritime and coastal security preparedness, validate existing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), and ensure coordinated response to various maritime threats.





- The India-Oman bilateral naval exercise **Naseem-Al-Bahr**, held from October 13 to 18, 2024, off **the coast of Goa**, featured the participation of the Indian Navy's INS Trikand and Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft, alongside the Royal Navy of Oman's vessel Al Seeb. The exercise was conducted in two phases.
- The Army's Sudarshan Chakra Corps of the Southern Command is currently conducting '**Exercise SWAVLAMBAN SHAKTI**' at the **Babina Field Firing Ranges near Jhansi**, with the primary objective of enhancing combat capabilities through the integration of niche and emerging technologies. The exercise commenced on 17th October, 2024 and is set to continue until October 22, as stated in a defense release.
- The third edition of the **Indian Navy's Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIO)** Seminar, took place in New Delhi on October 22, 2024. Chaired by **Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan**, Vice Chief of Naval Staff (VCNS), the event highlighted the Navy's commitment to showcasing significant advancements in innovation and indigenisation aimed at bolstering India's defense capabilities.
- **India's fourth nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN)**, designated S4*, was officially **launched into the water** at the Ship Building Centre in Visakhapatnam, according to official sources. This advanced submarine represents a **significant leap in capability and size compared to its predecessor, INS Arihant**.
- The **Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS)**, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the establishment of a new missile testing range in **Nagayalanka, Andhra Pradesh**. This initiative aims to bolster India's defense capabilities, particularly for testing tactical missile systems.
- The **31st edition of the Singapore India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX)** is underway from **October 23 to 29, 2024**, at the **Eastern Naval Command (ENC) in Visakhapatnam**. This annual exercise showcases the evolving maritime collaboration between the **Indian Navy** and the **Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN)**, furthering the strategic partnership and shared objectives of maritime security and interoperability.
- The Indian Navy and German Navy recently completed their inaugural **Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX)** in the **Indian Ocean**, marking a key milestone in naval collaboration. The exercise, held in the **Bay of Bengal**, included joint operations involving **INS Delhi**, a guided-missile destroyer from India, and **Baden-Württemberg** and **Frankfurt Am Main**, a frigate and replenishment tanker from Germany.
- The **Chanakya Defence Dialogue 2024** concluded on **October 25th** at the Manekshaw Centre in Delhi, marking the second edition of this significant international seminar hosted by the Indian Army. The event brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including policymakers, strategic thinkers, academics, veterans, and defense personnel from various countries, all focused on analyzing India's strategic directions and developmental priorities. The theme of this year's dialogue, "**Drivers in Nation Building: Fueling Growth Through Comprehensive Security**," facilitated vital discussions on how security dynamics intertwine with national and international policymaking.
- On October 25, 2024, the **Indian Navy's seventh Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC)**, named '**Abhay**', was launched at M/s L&T's Kattupalli facility. Built by **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE)**, this vessel marks a significant addition to India's maritime defense capabilities.
- **Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL)** launched **two indigenous fast patrol vessels, Adamya and Akshar**, designed for the Indian Coast Guard, on 28th October. These vessels are intended to enhance the protection of offshore assets, island territories, and conduct surveillance operations.
- India is set to mark a significant milestone in its aerospace industry with the rollout of the first locally assembled **C295 military transport aircraft** from the **Vadodara facility in September 2026**. This initiative, part of the "**Make in India**" campaign, represents a robust collaboration between Airbus and Tata Advanced Systems. The facility was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, highlighting the deepening defense ties between India and Spain.

Defense Current Affairs of September 2024

- A successful test **launch of the Agni-4 Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile (IRBM)** was carried out from the **Integrated Test Range in Chandipur, Odisha**, on September 6, 2024. The missile, developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), validated all operational and technical parameters during the test.
- The **21st edition of Varuna (Varuna-23)** naval exercise between the **Indian and French Navies** was held in two phases in 2023. India-France Bilateral Naval Exercise Varuna is a key strategic exercise, **initiated in 1993 and named 'Varuna' in 2001. Phase II took place in the Arabian Sea** and involved joint operations using guided missile frigates, tankers, Maritime Patrol Aircraft, and helicopters.





- The **5th Defence Cooperation Dialogue** between **India and the Maldives** was held in New Delhi on September 6, 2024. The Indian delegation was led by **Defence Secretary Shri Giridhar Aramane**, while the Maldivian delegation was **headed by General Ibrahim Hilmy**, Chief of Defence Force, Maldives National Defence Force. The meeting provided a platform to advance bilateral defence cooperation, focusing on the implementation of ongoing projects and fostering stability in the Indian Ocean region.
- The **20th edition** of the India-USA Joint Military Exercise, **YUDH ABHYAS-2024**, commenced on September 9, 2024, at the **Foreign Training Node in Mahajan Field Firing Ranges, Rajasthan**. This annual exercise, alternating between India and the USA since 2004, is set to run until September 22, 2024, showcasing a remarkable increase in scale and sophistication compared to previous iterations.
- **Indian Army and Indian Air Force** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya in Vadodara**. This collaboration aims to enhance the logistics capabilities of personnel and align with national development plans such as the **PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan 2021** and the **National Logistics Policy 2022**. The agreement was formalized in New Delhi in the presence of Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh and Railways Minister Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw.
- On **September 9, 2024**, the **Cochin Shipyard** marked a significant milestone in India's naval defense capabilities by launching two new vessels: **Malpe**: The fourth ship in the Mahe Class and **Mulki**: The fifth ship in the Mahe Class.
- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Navy successfully conducted a flight test of the **Vertical Launch Short Range Surface-to-Air Missile (VL-SRSAM)** from the **Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur, Odisha**, on September 12, 2024, at around 3 PM.
- The Indian Army contingent has departed for the fifth edition of the **India-Oman joint military exercise, Al Najah**, which will take place from September 13 to 26, 2024, at the **Rabkoot Training Area in Salalah, Oman**.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the **India Defence Aviation Exposition (IDAX-24)** at Jodhpur on September 12, 2024. This major event coincides with **Exercise Tarang Shakti-24**, one of the largest multinational air exercises hosted by the Indian Air Force. The IDAX-24, running from September 12-14, showcases significant advancements and contributions of the Indian aviation industry.
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted the preliminary automotive trials of the **Indian Light Tank, Zorawar**, on September 13, 2024. ()
- **The Kalvari Submarine Escape Training Facility (VINETRA)** was commissioned by **Vice Admiral Rajesh Pendharkar, the Flag Officer Commanding-in-chief**, Eastern Naval Command, at **INS Satavahana, Visakhapatnam**.
- **Navika Sagar Parikrama II**, led by **Indian Navy officers Lt Cdr Roopa A and Lt Cdr Dilna K**, is set to continue India's rich sailing tradition with a historic all-women expedition to circumnavigate the **globe aboard INSV Tarini**. This voyage celebrates maritime skill and gender equality, showcasing the Indian Navy's commitment to preserving maritime heritage and promoting seamanship. Both officers have been training rigorously for three years, accumulating thousands of nautical miles, and were mentored by **Cdr Abhilash Tomy (Retd.)**.
- The Government of India has launched **Operation Sadbhav** to provide humanitarian relief/assistance to countries **affected by Typhoon Yagi**. This will Express Solidarity with Storm-Hit Nations, **India Dispatches of Aid to Myanmar, Vietnam and Laos**.
- **The poem "National War Memorial"** is to appreciate the spirit behind it. The chapter titled '**Veer Abdul Hameed**' honors the Braveheart CQMH (Company Quarter Master Havildar). Abdul Hameed who made the supreme sacrifice fighting for the country during the **India-Pakistan war of 1965**.
- **Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh**, flagged-in, in New Delhi, a **first-of-its-kind Open Water Swimming Expedition** to the **21 Islands of the Andaman & Nicobar archipelago** named after the **Param Vir Chakra (PVC) Awardees**.
- **The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)**, in collaboration with the **Southern Command of the Indian Army**, is organized a **two-day national symposium, 'Exercise AIKYA'**, on **disaster management**.
- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** inaugurated the **Sainik School in Jaipur, Rajasthan** on September 23, 2024, as part of the **Government's plan to establish 100 new Sainik Schools** in partnership mode across India.
- **Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh** inaugurated the **41st edition of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Commanders' Conference** in New Delhi on September 24, 2024. This three-day conference serves as a crucial platform for ICG Commanders to engage in meaningful discussions on strategic, operational, and administrative matters amid evolving geopolitical landscapes and maritime security complexities.





- **Russia and China** started naval exercises in the Sea of Japan. The exercises will include anti-aircraft and anti-submarine weapons. This exercise aims to **deepen the strategic cooperation level between the Chinese and Russian militaries** and enhance their ability to jointly deal with security threats.
- India's **Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO)**, along with researchers of **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi** has developed Light Weight Bullet Proof Jackets named **ABHED (Advanced Ballistics for High Energy Defeat)**.

Defense Current Affairs of August 2024

- **Daljit Singh Chawdhary**, the **Director General of Sahastra Seema Bal (SSB)**, took over the additional charge of Director General Border Security Force on August 3.
- The **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)** has successfully conducted a demonstration and **trial of the formidable Typhoon vehicle** at its **Transport Battalion in Chandigarh**.
- The Indian Army has conducted a strategic military exercise, '**Parvat Prahaar**', in **Ladakh**, focusing on high-altitude warfare and operations.
- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has given clearance to the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** and the **Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)** to produce **200 Astra air-to-air missiles** for its Su-30 and LCA Tejas fighter aircraft.
- The bilateral air exercise "**Udara Shakti 2024**" between the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) concluded successfully on August 9, 2024. This exercise, hosted by the RMAF at its base in **Kuantan, Malaysia**.
- India is on the brink of commissioning its **second nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine, INS Arighat**.
- The **Mitra Shakti** military exercise, an annual bilateral engagement between the Indian Army and the Sri Lankan Army, commenced on **August 12, 2024**. This year's exercise, held at the **Sri Lankan Army Training School in Maduru Oya**, marks a significant milestone in the military cooperation between these two South Asian nations.
- **Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi** on August 20, chaired a high-level meeting focusing on the ongoing

transformational initiatives by the Indian Army and its contribution towards achieving the objective of **Viksit Bharat by 2047**.

- For the first time in recent history, the **51st Fighter Wing at Osan Air Base**, Republic of Korea, is incorporating its recurring wing readiness exercise into **Ulchi Freedom Shield 24**.
- The Indian Defence Ministry is finalizing a repeat order for **73,000 SiG 716 G2 patrol assault rifles from the US** to equip its frontline troops. This follows a **2019 procurement of 72,400 SiG 716 rifles (7.62 x 51mm calibre)** under the '**Buy (Global)**' category through a fast-track procedure, which were distributed across the Army, Air Force, and Navy.
- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has taken a significant step in international aviation diplomacy by dispatching its renowned **Sarang Helicopter Display Team** to participate in the inaugural **Egypt International Airshow**. This event, scheduled from **September 3 to 5, 2023**, at the **Al-Alamein International Airport** in Egypt's El Dabaa, marks a crucial moment for India to demonstrate its indigenous aviation capabilities on the global stage.
- **INS Tabar**, a frontline frigate of the **Indian Navy**, visited **Malaga, Spain**, on 25 August 2024, for a **two-day engagement**. Upon departure on 27 August, it participated in a **Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX)** with the **Spanish Navy Ship Atalaya in the Mediterranean Sea**.

Defense Current Affairs of July 2024

- India has taken a significant leap in military technology with the development of **SEBEX 2**, a powerful new explosive. Certified by the Indian Navy, SEBEX 2 is reported to be twice as lethal as the standard Trinitrotoluene (TNT), marking it as one of the most powerful non-nuclear explosives globally. This breakthrough is set to revolutionize artillery shells and warheads, enhancing their destructive capabilities without increasing their weight.
- July 1, 2024, marks the beginning of an important event in India-Thailand relations. The **Maitree Exercise**, a joint military exercise between the **Indian Army** and the **Royal Thai Army**, kicks off at Fort Vachiraprakan in Tak Province, Thailand. This two-week exercise, running until July 15, 2024, is a significant step in strengthening military ties between the two nations.





- The Indian Air Force (IAF) Chief, **Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari**, inaugurated the **Weapon Systems School (WSS) in Hyderabad**, marking a significant advancement for the IAF. Established to recalibrate and transform the IAF into a future-oriented force, the WSS aims to provide contemporary, effect-based training to officers of the newly formed Weapon Systems (WS) branch.
- **Indian army** has inducted the first-ever indigenous **chip-based 4G mobile** base station, which it procured from **Bangalore-based firm Signaltron** through the government e-marketplace portal. **Signaltron** founder **Himamshu Khasnis** told PTI that the chip used in the **Sahyadri LTE base stations** has been developed by **Signalchip**.
- **India's defence sector** has achieved a remarkable milestone in the fiscal year 2023-24, with total annual defence production reaching an all-time high of **Rs 1,26,887 crore**. This unprecedented achievement, announced by the **Union Ministry of Defence on July 5, 2024**, marks a significant leap in India's journey towards self-reliance in defence manufacturing.
- India has unveiled the **'Zorawar' light tank**, developed jointly by **DRDO and Larsen & Toubro**, aimed at bolstering military capabilities in high-altitude environments. Designed within a record two-year timeframe, the tank features advanced weaponry and protection systems, including a 105mm rifled cannon and composite modular armor. **Named after General Zorawar Singh**, the tank is slated for extensive trials before potential deployment in Ladakh, Sikkim, or Kashmir.
- The Border Security Force (BSF), in collaboration with the State Bank of India (SBI), organized the **"Grow with the Trees"** plantation drive at the **BSF Headquarters in Srinagar**. The initiative aimed to create a greener environment and promote the importance of tree plantation, involving BSF officials, jawans, SBI officials, and school children.
- **Azerbaijan Army** servicemen have arrived in **Kazakhstan to take part in the "Birlestik-2024"** operational-tactical command-staff exercise. This joint military drill, scheduled from July 11 to July 17, will be conducted at the Oymasha training ground and Cape Tokmak in the Caspian Sea. The exercise is part of a collaborative effort between the Defense Ministries of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.
- The Armed Forces Medical Services witnessed a significant change in leadership as **Lt Gen Shankar Narayan, NM, VSM**, assumed the role of Commandant at the **Army Hospital (Research & Referral)**, widely recognized as the apex hospital of the Indian Armed Forces. This appointment marks a new chapter in the hospital's illustrious history and promises to bring fresh perspectives to military healthcare.
- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has embarked on a significant international engagement by participating in **Exercise Pitch Black 2024**, hosted by the **Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF)** at their Base Darwin, Australia. This biennial, multi-national exercise, scheduled from July 12 to August 2, 2024, represents a crucial platform for enhancing international military cooperation and showcasing air combat capabilities.
- The Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) has taken a significant step towards promoting self-reliance in the defense sector by awarding seven new projects to industries under the **Technology Development Fund (TDF) scheme**. These projects aim to address various requirements of the Armed Forces and the aerospace & defense sectors, while simultaneously nurturing the growth of industries, particularly **MSMEs and start-ups**, in these domains.
- On July 14, 2024, **Visakhapatnam** hosted the prestigious **Fleet Awards Function** to honor the **Eastern Fleet's exceptional operational achievements** over the past year. **INS Delhi** was recognized as the Best Ship of the Eastern Fleet for its outstanding performance and operational prowess.
- Indian Navy's frontline frigate, **INS Tabar** arrived at Hamburg, Germany on **17 July 24** for a three day visit. It will participate in a exercise. During the visit, activities will include **professional exchanges** between the Indian and German Navies, tours of the German Naval Academy, and public visits to the ship. The crew of **INS Tabar** will also engage in community service.
- **Captain Supreetha C.T.** has etched her name in history by becoming the **first woman officer from the Corps of Army Air Defence** to be operationally deployed at the **Siachen Glacier**.
- On July 23, 2024, India's naval prowess took a significant leap forward with the launch of the first of two Advanced Frigates at **Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL)**.

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- On July 24, 2024, the **Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO)** of India achieved a significant milestone in its ongoing efforts to enhance national security.
- The Indian Army contingent has embarked on its journey to participate in the multinational military exercise **KHAAN QUEST 2024**.

Defense Current Affairs of June 2024

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has deployed its formidable **Rafale fighter jets** for the two-week multinational air exercise **Red Flag**, which commenced on **May 30** in **Alaska**. The IAF contingent, supported by **IL-78 air-to-air refuelers** and **C-17 transport aircraft**, arrived at the **Eielson Air Force Base** in the United States for the advanced aerial combat training exercise.
- A tech-based innovation, an integrated generator monitoring, protection and control system, developed by the Indian Army was launched on June 5. '**Vidyut Rakshak**', developed by the **Army Design Bureau (ADB)** was launched by the **Army's Vice Chief Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi**.
- **Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi** will take over as the next **Chief of the Army Staff (COAS)** on June 30. In his career of over 39 years, he has served as **Northern Army Commander and Director General (DG)** infantry amongst other appointments.
- The **8th edition of the Japan-India Maritime Exercise (JIMEX-24)** has commenced at Yokosuka, Japan, hosted by the **Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF)**. Indian Navy's **INS Shivalik** and Japan's **JS Yugiri** are participating.
- The launch of '**Missile Cum Ammunition Barge, LSAM 13 (Yard 81)**', the **fifth** Barge of 08 x Missile Cum Ammunition Barge project, built by **MSME Shipyard. M/s SECON Engineering Projects Pvt Ltd (SEPPL)**, Visakhapatnam for Indian Navy, was undertaken on **10 Jun 24** at M/s Vinayaga Marine Petro Ltd, Mira Bhayandar, Maharashtra (launch site of M/s SECON Engineering Projects Pvt Ltd). The launching Ceremony was presided over by **Cmdr Manish Vig, General Manager (QA), ND(Mbi)**.
- India has achieved a significant milestone in its defense capabilities with the induction of the **indigenous Nagastra-1 kamikaze drones** developed by **Solar Industries, based in Nagpur**. This deployment addresses the escalating drone-related incidents along India's Northern borders, highlighting the critical need for advanced indigenous drone technologies in combat applications.
- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** is set to make history this August by hosting its first-ever multinational air exercise, **Tarang Shakti-2024**. The exercise is slated to be held in two phases, with the initial phase commencing in the first two weeks of August in southern India, followed by the second phase in the western sector from **late August to mid-September**.

- The **Indian Army** on June 18, announced the opening of a **state-of-the-art skin bank** facility at the Army Hospital (Research & Referral). The facility offers the latest modern treatment for **severe burn injuries** received by armed forces personnel and their families.
- In a significant move towards self-reliance, the **Northern Command** of the Indian Army has ordered 550 indigenously designed, developed, and manufactured **ASMI submachine guns** worth Rs 4.26 crores from **Hyderabad-based Lokesh Machine Limited**. This marks the first time an indigenously designed and manufactured weapon has been inducted into the Indian Army.
- **Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan** released the **Joint Doctrine for Cyberspace Operations** during the **Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC)** meeting held on **June 18, 2024**, in New Delhi. The Joint Doctrine is a keystone publication that will guide Commanders in conducting Cyberspace Operations in today's complex military operating environment.
- In a landmark event, the Military College of Telecommunication Engineering (MCTE) of the Indian Army and the **Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engineering & Research (SAMEER)** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on '**Next Generation Wireless Technologies for the Indian Army**'.
- **India's defence exports to the United States (US)** has grown to account for **over 50 per cent of the total exports**, exceeding **\$2.8 billion** during the last 5 years, said **Ranjana Khanna**, Director General and CEO – American Chamber of Commerce in India (Amcham).
- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) handed over the **Medium Range-Microwave Obscurant Chaff Rocket (MR-MOCR)** to the Indian Navy in a ceremony **held in New Delhi**. This rocket creates a microwave obscurant cloud in space, forming an effective shield against threats with radio frequency seekers.
- **Jaipur Military Station** has become the **second military station in India** to have a road made from plastic waste. The **road, inaugurated on June 26, 2024, by Major General R.S. Godara**, General Officer Commanding of 61 Sub Area, is 100 meters long and stretches from Sagat Singh Road under bridge to Cubs Corner complex.
- The deployment marks sustained participation of an Indian Military Contingent in military parade organized as part of Seychelles National Day **since 1976**. **INS Sunayna** entered **Port Victoria**, Seychelles on 26 Jun 24 as part of her long range deployment in the **South West Indian Ocean Region**.
- **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has successfully completed six consecutive development trials of High Speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) '**ABHYAS**' with improved booster configuration from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), **Chandipur, Odisha**.





Awards & Recognition

Awards & Recognition of December 2024

National Panchayat Awards 2024: Celebrating Rural Governance and Sustainable Development

The **National Panchayat Awards 2024** marked a significant moment in India's rural development landscape, honoring 45 exceptional **Panchayats** for their remarkable contributions to sustainable and inclusive growth. Held on December 11, 2024, at **Vigyan Bhawan** in New Delhi, the prestigious event was graced by the **Hon'ble President of India**, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, and the **Union Minister of Panchayati Raj**, Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh.

Historical Context and Significance

Constitutional Foundations

The awards commemorate the **73rd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1992**, which granted constitutional status to Panchayats as institutions of local self-governance. Traditionally celebrated on April 24th, the 2024 ceremony was rescheduled due to the **General Elections to the Lok Sabha**.

Scale and Participation

In a testament to grassroots democratic participation, **1.94 lakh Gram Panchayats** competed in this year's awards. Notably, **42% of the 42 award-winning Panchayats** were led by women, highlighting the growing role of female leadership in rural governance.

Award Categories: Recognizing Comprehensive Rural Development

1. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar (DDUPSVP)

This category recognized excellence across nine **Localization of Sustainable Development Goal (LSDG)** thematic areas. **27 Gram Panchayats** from diverse states including Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, and others were honored for their exceptional performance in:

- Poverty alleviation
- Health
- Education
- Water conservation
- Sanitation
- Infrastructure development
- Social justice
- Good governance

2. Nanaji Deshmukh Sarvottam Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar

Nine Panchayats were conferred with this prestigious award for their holistic approach to implementing sustainable development goals across all themes.

3. Gram Urja Swaraj Vishesh Panchayat Puraskar

Recognizing innovation in renewable energy, Panchayats from **Maharashtra, Odisha, and Tripura** were awarded for their remarkable contributions to sustainable energy practices.

4. Carbon Neutral Vishesh Panchayat Puraskar

Highlighting environmental sustainability, Gram Panchayats from **Maharashtra, Odisha, and Uttar Pradesh** were honoured for their efforts in achieving net-zero carbon emissions.

5. Panchayat Kshamta Nirmaan Sarvottam Sansthan Puraskar

Institutions from **Kerala, Maharashtra, and Odisha** were recognized for providing exceptional support to Panchayats in implementing Localization of Sustainable Development Goals.

Financial Recognition and Support

A total of **46 crore rupees** in prize money was distributed to 45 awardees, with funds directly transferred to their accounts. This financial recognition aims to motivate and support rural governance initiatives.

Key Publications and Documentation

A significant highlight was the unveiling of a booklet titled '**Best Practices on Works of Awardee Panchayats**', documenting the innovative practices of award-winning Panchayats and serving as a knowledge repository for other rural governance institutions.





Indian Heritage Conservation Projects Shine at UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards 2024

Two Indian heritage conservation projects—the **Abathsayeswarar Temple Conservation Project** in Tamil Nadu and the **BJPCI Conservation Project** in Maharashtra—have garnered global recognition by winning the **UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation 2024**. These projects, celebrated for their commitment to preserving India’s cultural legacy, were among the eight winners selected from the Asia-Pacific region.

The awards, announced by the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)** on **6 December 2024** at its regional office in Bangkok, Thailand, spotlight the efforts of individuals and organisations dedicated to restoring and conserving heritage sites across the region.

Abathsayeswarar Temple Conservation Project

- The **Abathsayeswarar Temple Conservation Project** in **Thukkatchi, Tamil Nadu**, received the **Award of Distinction**, recognizing its exemplary efforts to safeguard a historic cultural treasure.
- **Temple Overview**
- The **Abathsayeswarar Temple**, dedicated to **Lord Dakshinamurthy (a form of Lord Shiva)**, is a revered religious site located in **Thukkatchi village** in the **Thiruvavur District of Tamil Nadu**. The temple holds historical and spiritual significance, as it is mentioned in the **7th-century Tamil Saivite text ‘Thevaram’** and is one of the **Paadal Petra Sthalams** (sacred places glorified in Tamil Shaivite literature).

Award-Winning Conservation Efforts

- The conservation project was lauded for its innovative use of **modern engineering expertise** alongside the **traditional knowledge of Hindu temple builders, known as sthaphathis**, to ensure the **structural conservation** of the temple. This harmonious blend of traditional and modern techniques exemplifies a sustainable approach to heritage preservation, earning the temple the **UNESCO Award of Distinction**.

BJPCI Conservation Project

- The **BJPCI Conservation Project** in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**, was honored with the **Award of Merit** for its restoration work on a historic educational institution.

Filmfare OTT Awards 2024 Celebrating Digital Excellence

Category	Award	Winner
Series Category	Best Series	The Railway Men
	Best Director Series	Sameer Saxena and Amit Golani (Kaala Paani)
	Best Actor, Series (Male): Comedy	Rajkummar Rao (Guns & Gulaabs)
	Best Actor, Series (Male): Drama	Gagan Dev Riar (Scam 2003 – The Telgi Story)
	Best Actor, Series (Female): Comedy	Geetanjali Kulkarni (Gullak Season 4)
	Best Actor, Series (Female): Drama	Manisha Koirala (Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar)
	Best Supporting Actor, Series (Female): Comedy	Nidhi Bisht (Maamla Legal Hai)
	Best Supporting Actor, Series (Female): Drama	Mona Singh (Made In Heaven Season 2)
	Best Original Story, Series	Biswapati Sarkar (Kaala Paani)
	Best Comedy (Series/Specials)	Maamla Legal Hai
	Best (Non-Fiction) Original (Series/Special)	The Hunt For Veerappan
	Best Dialogue, Series	Sumita Arora (Guns & Gulaabs)
	Best Production Design, Series	Subrata Chakraborty and Amit Ray (Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar)
Films Category	Best Debut Director, Series	Shiv Rawail (The Railway Men)
	Best Film, Web Original	Amar Singh Chamkila
	Best Director, Web Original Film	Imtiaz Ali (Amar Singh Chamkila)
	Best Actor, Web Original Film (Male)	Diljit Dosanjh (Amar Singh Chamkila)





Category	Award	Winner
	Best Actor, Web Original Film (Female)	Kareena Kapoor (Jaane Jaan)
	Best Supporting Actor, Web Original Film (Male)	Jaideep Ahlawat (Maharaj)
	Best Supporting Actor, Web Original Film (Female)	Wamiqa Gabbi (Khufiya)
	Best Dialogue (Web Original Film)	Imtiaz Ali and Sajid Ali (Amar Singh Chamkila)
	Best Cinematographer (Web Original Film)	Sylvester Fonseca (Amar Singh Chamkila)
	Best Production Design (Web Original Film)	Suzanne Caplan Merwanji (The Archies)
	Best Editing (Web Original Film)	Aarti Bajaj (Amar Singh Chamkila)
	Best Background Music (Web Original Film)	A R RAHMAN (Amar Singh Chamkila)
	Best Story (Web Original Film)	Zoya Akhtar, Arjun Varain Singh, Reema Kagti (Kho Gaye Hum Kahan)
	Best Music Album, Film	A R RAHMAN (Amar Singh Chamkila)
	Best Debut Director, Film	Arjun Varain Singh (Kho Gaye Hum Kahan)
	Best Debut Male, Film	Vedang Raina
Critics Category	Best Series, Critics	Guns & Gulaabs
	Best Director, Critics	Mumbai Diaries Season 2
	Best Actor, Series (Male), Critics: Drama	Kay Kay Menon (Bambai Meri Jaan)
	Best Actor, Series (Female), Critics: Drama	Huma Qureshi (Maharani S03)
	Best Film, Critics	Jaane Jaan
	Best Actor (Male), Critics – Film	Jaideep Ahlawat
	Best Actor (Female), Critics – Film	Ananya Panday
	Special Recognition	Arjun Varain Singh (Kho Gaye Hum Kahan)

Awards in Arts & Culture / Films

Award Name	Award Winner	Field	Key Notes
Turner Prize 2024	Jasleen Kaur	Artist	Jasleen Kaur , a Glasgow-born Scottish Sikh artist, won the Turner Prize 2024 for her solo exhibition Alter Altar at Tate Britain . The exhibition combines sculpture, sound, and music to explore community, cultural inheritance, and anti-colonial struggles .

Other Important Awards

Award Name	Award Winner	Field	Key Notes
Aster Guardians Global Nursing Award 2024	Maria Victoria Juan	Nursing	Maria Victoria Juan , a nurse from the Philippine Army Health Services , has been awarded the Aster Guardians Global Nursing Award 2024 for her exceptional contributions to healthcare. Recognized for her dedication and resilience, she was honored for transforming the healthcare landscape, particularly within the Armed Forces of the Philippines .
ISSA Good Practice Award for Asia and Pacific 2024	India		EPFO also received five Certificates of Merit for enhancing service delivery, communication, and inclusivity in social security. The awards were presented by Dr. Mohammed Azman at the Regional Social Security Forum in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia .
Golden Globe Nomination	Payal Kapadia	Film Direction	Payal Kapadia made history as the first Indian director to receive a Golden Globe nomination for Best Director (Motion Picture). Her film <i>All We Imagine As Light</i> was also nominated for Best Motion Picture (Non-English Language).





Award Name	Award Winner	Field	Key Notes
Rising Star Women Leaders of Banking 2024	Bharati Kolli	Banking and Data Management	Bharati Kolli, from Vizianagaram, Andhra Pradesh, was honored for her exceptional contributions to data management. She serves as the Director of the Data Management Office at ICBC, New York.
JC Daniel Award 2023	Shaji N Karun	Malayalam Cinema	Veteran filmmaker Shaji N Karun was recognized for his lifetime contributions to Malayalam cinema. The award includes Rs 5 lakh, a citation, and a statuette.
PSU Transformation Awards 2024	Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL)	Shipbuilding and Innovation	HSL won two awards for its innovation and technological advancements in shipbuilding and ship repair, underscoring its leadership in the maritime sector.
DGA Lifetime Achievement Award 2025	Ang Lee	Film Direction	Ang Lee was honored for his groundbreaking storytelling and versatility across genres. His career spans over three decades, earning two Academy Awards and inspiring filmmakers worldwide.
Transforming Society Short Film Award	The Kumbaya Story	Sustainability Storytelling	India's <i>The Kumbaya Story</i> won this award at the 13th tve Global Sustainability Film Awards, showcasing women's empowerment through weaving, produced by Kumbaya Producer Co. Ltd.

Awards & Recognition of November 2024

Rodri Clinches Men's Ballon d'Or 2024 and Bonmati Wins it for Spain

- **Men's Ballon d'Or: Rodri** (Spain / Manchester City) – Key role in **Premier League** win, **Euro 2024** Player of the Tournament.
- **Women's Ballon d'Or: Aitana Bonmatí** (Spain / Barcelona) – Helped **Barcelona** win **Spanish league & cup**, second consecutive Ballon d'Or for women.
- **Kopa Trophy: Lamine Yamal** (Spain / Barcelona).
- **Yashin Trophy (Best Goalkeeper): Emiliano Martínez** (Argentina / Aston Villa).
- **Gerd Müller Trophy: Kylian Mbappé** (France / PSG/Real Madrid), **Harry Kane** (England / Bayern Munich).
- **Men's Coach of the Year: Carlo Ancelotti** (Italy / Real Madrid).
- **Women's Coach of the Year: Emma Hayes** (USA / Chelsea).
- **Men's Club of the Year: Real Madrid.**
- **Women's Club of the Year: FC Barcelona.**
- **Socrates Award: Jenni Hermoso** (Spain / Tigres UANL) – Recognized for **humanitarian work**.
- **Awarding Body: Ballon d'Or** by **France Football**, partnered with **UEFA** this year.
- **Most Winner: Lionel Messi** with **8 Ballon d'Or** wins.

Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar recipients for 2022 and 2023

Year	Field of Activity	Name	Specialization
2022	Music	Samit Mallick	Hindustani Vocal
		Samarth Janve	Hindustani Vocal
		Sangeet Mishra	Hindustani Instrumental – Sarangi
		Partho Roy Choudhury	Hindustani Instrumental – Santoor
		K. Gayatri	Carnatic Vocal
	Dance	I. Sweta Prasad	Carnatic Vocal
		B. Anantha Krishnan	Carnatic Instrumental – Violin
		Sahana S.V	Carnatic Instrumental – Veena
		Manoj Rai	Creative & Experimental Music
		Nandini Rao Gujar	Other Major Traditions of Music (Sugam Sangeet)
Dance	Mandakranta Roy	Bharatanatyam	
	Kadam Parikh	Kathak	





Year	Field of Activity	Name	Specialization
		Urmika Maibam	Manipuri
		T. Reddi Lakshmi	Kuchipudi
		Arupa Gayatri Panda	Odissi
		Dimpee Baishya	Sattriya
		Akshara M Das	Mohiniattam
		Pradyumna Kumar Mohanta	Chhau
		Mingma D. Lepcha	Creative & Experimental Dance
		Aparna Nangiar	Nangiarkoothu
	Theatre	Beluru Raghunandan	Playwriting
		Ifra Mushtaq Kak	Direction
		Harishankar Ravi	Direction
		Harwinder Singh	Acting
		Kumar Ravikant	Acting
		Siddhi Upadhye	Acting
		Mukunda Nath	Mime
		Sangeet Shrivastava	Allied Theatre Arts – Lighting
	Traditional / Folk / Tribal and Puppetry	Lata Tiwari & Sanjay Datt Panday	Folk Music & Dance (Uttarakhand)
		Chow Saratham Namchoom	Folk Music (Arunachal Pradesh)
		Sampriya Pooja	Folk Music & Dance (Chhattisgarh)
		Suryawanshi Pramila Kautikrao	Folk Dance Lavani (Maharashtra)
		Kumar Uday Singh	Folk Dance (Bihar)
		Nasarullah EPI	Folk Dance (Lakshadweep)
		Binita Devi	Puppetry (Assam)
		Mahesh Aba Satarkar	Folk Dance (Goa)
		Vasava Mukeshbhai M.	Folk Dance (Gujarat)
		Gulzar Ahmad Bhat	Folk Dance (Jammu & Kashmir)
		Moirangthem Kendra Singh	Nata Sankirtan (Manipur)
	Overall Contribution	Anuthama Murali	Overall Contribution in Performing Arts
2023	Music	Anuja Zokarkar	Hindustani Vocal
		Monika Soni	Hindustani Vocal
		Rishi Shankar Upadhyay	Hindustani Instrumental – Pakhawaj
		Sarang Rajan Kulkarni	Hindustani Instrumental – Sarod
		S. R. Vinay Sharva	Carnatic Vocal
		Ramakrishnan Murthy	Carnatic Vocal
		Akshay Anantapadmanabhan	Carnatic Instrumental – Mridangam
		Saikhom Pinky Devi	Creative & Experimental Music
		Satyavathi Mudavath	Creative & Experimental Music
		Nagesh Shankarrao Adgaonkar	Other Major Traditions of Music (Abhang)
	Dance	Apoorva Jayaraman	Bharatanatyam
		Meghranjani Medhi	Kathak





Year	Field of Activity	Name	Specialization
		Kalamandalam Vipin Sankar	Kathakali
		Pukhrambam Reepa Devi	Manipuri
		Muramalla Surendra Nadh	Kuchipudi
		Debasis Pattnaik	Odissi
		Mukunda Saikia Barbayan	Sattriya
		Vidya Pradeep	Mohiniattam
		Sunita Mahato	Chhau
		Venkateshwaran Kuppuswamy	Music for Dance
	Theatre	Priyadarshini Mishra	Playwriting
		Bendang Walling	Direction
		Suvojit Bandyopadhyay	Direction
		Rutuja Rajan Bagwe	Acting
		Vipan Kumar	Acting
		Shruti Singh	Acting
		Mallikarjuna Rao Bachala	Allied Theatre Arts – Make-up
		Puneet Dimari & Amit Khanduri	Ramleela (Uttarakhand)
	Traditional / Folk / Tribal and Puppetry	Angadi Bhaskar	Dappalu (Telangana)
		Alok Bishoyi	Folk Dance & Music (Odisha)
		M. Prakash	Folk Dance (Puducherry)
		Padma Dolker	Folk Music & Dance (Ladakh)
		Sukhram Pahan	Folk Music (Jharkhand)
		Yusuf Khan Mewati Jogi	Folk Music (Rajasthan)
		Kalamandalam Ravisankar T S	Folk Instrument (Chenda, Kerala)
		Dixit Kushal Manvantray	Folk Dance (Gujarat)
		Priyanka Shakti Thakur	Traditional Music (Maharashtra)
		Anureet Pal Kaur	Folk Music (Punjab)
		Charu Sharma	Folk Music (Himachal Pradesh)
	Overall Contribution	Laxminarayan Jena	Overall Contribution in Performing Arts

55th International Film Festival of India

Aspect	Details
Why in News	The 55th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) is set to open in Panaji, Goa, showcasing diverse global cinema and celebrating India’s evolving role in international film.
Theme of IFFI 2024	Young Filmmakers – The Future is Now
Location	Panaji, Goa, India
Established	1952, with Goa as its permanent venue since 2004
Organizers	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (India), National Film Development Corporation (NFDC), and the Entertainment Society of Goa
– Film Lineup	Features films across 16 curated segments, including 25 Feature Films and 20 Non-Feature Films in the Indian Panorama. “Swatantrya Veer Savarkar” (Hindi) will open the feature segment, while “Ghar Jaisa Kuch” (Ladakhi) will open the non-feature segment.





Aspect	Details
– New Award Category	Introduction of “Best Debut Director of Indian Feature Film,” recognizing five debut films representing India’s cultural diversity
– Centenary Tributes	Honoring legends Raj Kapoor, Tapan Sinha, Akkineni Nageswara Rao, and Mohammed Rafi with restored classic films and a special presentation
Country of Focus	Australia – Showcasing seven Australian films across genres, supported by the India-Australia Audio-Visual Co-Production Treaty
Workshops & Events	Masterclasses, discussions, and the IFFI Red Carpet event featuring actors, directors, and industry experts. Includes “Creative Minds of Tomorrow,” “Film Bazaar,” and “Cine Mela”
Accessibility and Inclusivity	Venues equipped with ramps, braille signage, tactile pathways, and accessible facilities for persons with disabilities
Significance	Fosters cultural exchange, highlights regional voices in Indian cinema, promotes emerging talent, and strengthens India’s international film industry
Historical Background	Founded in 1952, IFFI is one of Asia’s premier film festivals. Accredited by the International Federation of Film Producers’ Associations (FIAPF) and has a long-standing reputation as a competitive international film festival.

Other Important Awards

Here is a table summarizing the recent awards and recognitions:

Award Name	Award Winner	Field	Key Notes
Harry Messel Award for Conservation Leadership	Bibhab Kumar Talukdar	Conservation	Assam-based conservation scientist awarded by the IUCN's Species Survival Commission in Abu Dhabi.
A+ Grade in Central Bank Report Cards 2024	Shaktikanta Das	Banking & Finance	RBI Governor awarded by Global Finance for the second consecutive year in Washington, D.C.
ANR National Award 2024	Chiranjeevi	Cinema	Honored by Amitabh Bachchan for lifetime contributions to Telugu cinema.
Best Sports League of the Year	Pro Kabaddi League (PKL)	Sports	Awarded at the CII Sports Business Awards 2024.
Honorary Officer of the Order of Fiji	Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar	Social Service	Fiji’s highest civilian award presented in recognition of his contributions.
Generational Legacy Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Indian Economy	Wagh Bakri Tea Group	Business & Economy	Presented by Hurun India for the group’s impact on the Indian economy.
AFC President’s Recognition Award for Grassroots Football (Silver)	All India Football Federation (AIFF)	Sports	Awarded for grassroots football development at the AFC Annual Awards in Seoul.
Best Companies for Women in India (BCWI) 2024	DBS Bank India	Corporate & Diversity	Recognized for the ninth consecutive year for gender equity and diversity by Avtar and Seramount.
AFI Life Achievement Award	Francis Ford Coppola	Cinema	To be awarded at Dolby Theatre, Hollywood in April 2025 for his lifetime achievements in film.
Education Leader of the Year	Kunal Dalal	Education	- Managing Director of JBCN Education. - Recognized at the Education World India School Ranking Awards 2024-2025 for visionary leadership in international schools.
Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award	Phillip Noyce	Film	- Veteran Australian filmmaker. - Honored at the 55th International Film Festival of India (IFFI).
ICC Players of the Month (October 2024)	Amelia Kerr (New Zealand) & Noman Ali (Pakistan)	Cricket	- Amelia Kerr: All-rounder from New Zealand. - Noman Ali: Spinner from Pakistan.





Award Name	Award Winner	Field	Key Notes
Booker Prize for Fiction	Samantha Harvey	Literature	- Won for her novel "Orbital," set on the International Space Station (ISS).
Dominica Award of Honour	Narendra Modi	International Relations	- Recognized by Dominica for contributions during the COVID-19 pandemic.
Best Film (Constellation Feature Film Competition)	The Fable (Directed by Raam Reddy)	Film	- Starred Manoj Bajpayee. - Won at the 38th Leeds International Film Festival for its unique storytelling and magical realism.
Airport Excellence Awards	GMR Hyderabad International Airport Limited (GHIAL)	Aviation	- Recognized globally at the Saudi Airport Exhibition 2024 for excellence.
Rohini Nayyar Prize	Anil Pradhan		Recognizing his impactful contributions to rural development in India. Known for his dedication to empowering rural communities, Pradhan's work has brought positive change and opportunities to underserved areas.
Grand Commander of the Order of Niger	Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi		Awarded the prestigious "Grand Commander of the Order of Niger" by H.E. Mr. Bola Ahmed Tinubu, President of Nigeria, at the State House. This honor recognizes Modi's visionary leadership, transformative governance, and his significant efforts in strengthening India-Nigeria relations and supporting the aspirations of the Global South.
73rd Miss Universe	Victoria Kjaer Theilvig		At the 73rd Miss Universe pageant in Mexico, Victoria Kjaer Theilvig from Denmark made history by becoming the country's first-ever Miss Universe. The 21-year-old from Søborg outshone 125 contestants, including India's Rhea Singha. The first runner-up was Chidimma Adetshina from Nigeria, and the second runner-up was Maria Fernanda Beltran from Mexico.
Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament, and Development for 2023	Daniel Barenboim		The Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament, and Development for 2023 was awarded to Daniel Barenboim, a renowned pianist and conductor, and Ali Abu Awwad, a Palestinian peace activist, on November 19, 2024. The prestigious award honors their exceptional contributions to promoting peace and non-violence.
Green World Environment Award 2024	Coal India Limited (CIL)		Green World Environment Award 2024 in the CSR category and was named Green World Ambassador. This recognition highlights CIL's commitment to sustainability and social welfare, acknowledging its balance between industrial operations and environmental contributions.
Miss Charm India 2024 title	Shivangi Desai		Shivangi Desai, a 22-year-old final-year law student at the Indian Law School (ILS) Pune, has made India proud by winning the prestigious Miss Charm India 2024 title. Representing India at Miss Charm 2024 in Vietnam this December.
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Global Peace Award for Minority Upliftmen	Prime Minister Narendra Modi		Prime Minister Narendra Modi was honored in absentia with the 'Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Global Peace Award for Minority Upliftment' for his contributions to inclusive development and minority welfare.
Special Appreciation Medal	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's 'One Health' Pavilion		The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's 'One Health' Pavilion at the 43rd India International Trade Fair (IITF) in New Delhi was awarded a Special Appreciation Medal for its innovative design and impactful presentation of India's healthcare initiatives.
2024 OPCW-The Hague Award	Indian Chemical Council		





55th International Film Festival of India 2024

Category	Details
Why in News	The 55th IFFI concluded in Goa, celebrating global and Indian cinema with a grand closing ceremony.
Theme	"Young Filmmakers: The Future is Now"
Venue	Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium, Goa
Duration	20th November 2024 – 28th November 2024
Golden Peacock (Best Film)	<i>Toxic</i> (Lithuania) - A coming-of-age narrative by Saulė Bliuvaitė.
Silver Peacock (Best Director)	Bogdan Muresanu (<i>The New Year That Never Came</i>) - Recognized for outstanding storytelling.
Silver Peacock (Best Actor - Male)	Clément Faveau (<i>Holy Cow</i>) - For portraying a transformative journey.
Silver Peacock (Best Actor - Female)	Vesta Matulytė & Ieva Rupeikaitė (<i>Toxic</i>) - Jointly awarded for exceptional performances.
Special Jury Award	Louise Courvoisier (<i>Holy Cow</i>) - Honored for creative excellence.
Best Debut Feature Film	Familiar Touch by Sarah Friedland - Celebrated for a remarkable debut.
Best Debut Director (Indian Feature)	Navjyot Bandiwadekar (Gharat Ganpati) - For outstanding storytelling in Marathi cinema.
ICFT-UNESCO Gandhi Medal	Crossing by Levan Akin - Recognized for promoting peace, tolerance, and non-violence.
Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement	Phillip Noyce (Australia) - Honored for contributions to cinema.
Best Web Series (OTT)	Lampan (Sony Liv) - Directed by Nipun Dharmadhikari.
Indian Film Personality of the Year	Vikrant Massey - Recognized for his contributions to Indian cinema.

Awards & Recognition of October 2024

S.No.	Name of Award	Winner
1	SASTRA Ramanujan Prize	Alexander Dunn
2	Dadasaheb Phalke Award	Mithun Chakraborty
3	MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity 2024	Vera Voronova, Ysabel Agustina Calderón
4	Honorary Doctorate in Political Science	President Droupadi Murmu
5	Femina Miss India 2024	Nikita Porwal
6	V&A Illustration Awards - Emerging Illustrator	Aditi Anand
7	National Kishore Kumar Award	Rajkumar Hirani
8	2024 Patrick J. McGovern Awards	Narayana Murthy
9	International Astronautical Federation (IAF) World Space Award	Dr. S. Somanath
10	Special Recognition at the Conscious Companies Awards	Mohanji
11	Jury Member for ALT EFF 2024	Dia Mirza
12	Richest City Globally for Sovereign Wealth Funds	Abu Dhabi
13	SHRM HR Excellence Awards	Steel Authority of India Limited
14	Mahatma Gandhi Leadership Award	Darasing Khurana
15	Global Anti-Racism Championship Award	Urmila Chaudhary
16	Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought	María Corina Machado and Edmundo González
17	Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought is the highest human rights honor	Soviet physicist and dissident Andrei Sakharov
18	Harry Messel Award for Conservation Leadership	Bibhab Kumar Talukdar
19	A+ grade in the Central Bank Report Cards 2024	Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das





S.No.	Name of Award	Winner
20	ANR National Awards 2024	Actor Chiranjeevi
21	Honourary Officer of the Order of Fiji	Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar
22	Best Companies for Women in India'	DBS Bank India
23	Francis Ford Coppola	AFI Life Achievement Award

Awards & Recognition of September 2024

- President **Emmanuel Macron** of France was awarded the **Olympic Order in gold**. This prestigious distinction was bestowed upon him by the **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** in recognition of his unwavering support for the Olympic Games Paris 2024.
- India celebrated Teachers' Day with a prestigious ceremony in New Delhi, where **President Droupadi Murmu** conferred the **National Teachers' Award 2024** to 82 exceptional educators from across the country. This annual event, commemorating the birth anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, recognizes the pivotal role of teachers in shaping the nation's future.
- Prasanthi Ram (32)**, who was an Indian origin lecturer from the University of Nanyang technological University won the Singapore literature prize for English fiction for her short story -'Nine Yard Sarees' and it was her debut work which was published at the end of year 2023.
- Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL)**, the corporate entity of **Visakhapatnam Steel Plant**, has once again achieved excellence in energy efficiency and conservation by winning the prestigious National Energy Leader Award from the **Confederation of Indian Industry – Green Business Centre (CII-GBC)**. This marks the sixth consecutive year that RINL has received this accolade, demonstrating its steadfast commitment to sustainable energy practices.
- On 14th September 2024, during Hindi Diwas Celebrations at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, the Secretary of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (**DARPG**), **Mr. V. Srinivas**, was awarded the **Rajbhasha Kirti Puraskar by the Hon'ble Home Minister, Shri Amit Shah**.
- The Indian Women Dubai Awards 2024 took place in Dubai, honoring the achievements of **Indian women who have contributed in various fields of excellence across the UAE**. This event celebrated empowerment, resilience, and unity, showcasing the impact of women who are shaping the community.
- At the **South Indian International Movie Awards (SIIMA) 2024**, **Aishwarya Rai Bachhan** stood out as she received the Best Actress (critics) Award for her role in **Maniratnam's epic "Ponniyin Selvan 2"**.
- Dhruvi Patel**, a Computer Information System student from the USA, has been declared the **winner of Miss India Worldwide 2024**, the longest running Indian pageant outside of India.

- Jaipur, the capital of Rajasthan**, is set to host the prestigious 25th edition of the **International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Awards** from March 7 to 9, 2025, at the **JECC Sitapura**. The announcement was made during a formal agreement signing ceremony at the **iconic Albert Hall**, attended by **Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari**. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by Rajasthan Tourism Commissioner VP Singh and IIFA Vice President Suresh Iyer, marking the beginning of preparations for this grand event.
- Emerging swimmer Pratyasa Ray** has been selected for the **32nd Ekalabya Puraskar for 2024** for her achievements in swimming. A proud moment for **Odisha's sporting fraternity**.
- Rhea Singha, a 19-year-old model from Gujarat**, was crowned Miss Universe India 2024 in Jaipur. She will represent India at the **global Miss Universe competition in Mexico**.
- Renowned Bollywood producer **Vinod Bachchan** received the prestigious **Global Prestige Award at the House of Lords, UK Parliament**, recognizing his significant contributions to the Indian film industry.
- Visionary industrialist and leader Shri Deepak C Mehta**, Chairman and Managing Director of Deepak Nitrite Limited, has been conferred the prestigious **Lifetime Achievement Award by the Indian Chemical Council (ICC) at the 59th ICC Annual Awards Function in Mumbai**.

Awards & Recognition of August 2024

- Bollywood's charismatic '**King Khan**', graced the **77th Locarno Film Festival** with his presence on August 10, receiving a career achievement award that further gilds his storied career.
- Out of **208 gallantry awards**, **52** have been awarded to the personnel deployed in Left-wing extremism areas, **31 in the Jammu and Kashmir** region, and **17 to those from Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra**.
- The **Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA)** in Hyderabad has once again been recognized as the **Best Airport** at the prestigious **India Travel Awards**, marking its third consecutive win in this category.
- President **Droupadi Murmu** presided over a distinguished ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi to confer the prestigious **2023 National Geoscience Awards** to outstanding individuals and teams in the field of geosciences.
- The **Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH)** organised its **24th Handicrafts Export Awards Function** on August 21, at the Convention Hall.





- President **Droupadi Murmu** presided over the first-ever investiture ceremony for the **Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar** (National Science Awards).
- The 11th edition of the **Puthiya Thalaimurai Tamilar Awards** recently honored outstanding individuals across various fields, recognizing both seasoned professionals and emerging talents.
- The **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)** recently organized its prestigious **Young Leaders Awards** in New Delhi, bringing together a diverse array of talented individuals from various fields. The ceremony was graced by two outstanding personalities who received the coveted **FICCI Young Leaders Youth Icon** award:
- **Ayushmann Khurrana**: Bollywood superstar and versatile actor
- **Neeraj Chopra**: Olympic gold medalist in javelin throw
- **Kerala Tourism** has once again put India on the global tourism map by winning the prestigious **Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Gold Award 2024**.

Awards & Recognition of July 2024

- In a significant recognition of feminist literature and studies, writer, critic, and feminist activist **P. Geetha** has been awarded the first **K. Saraswathi Amma Award**. This prestigious accolade, instituted by **WINGS (Women's Integration and Growth Through Sports) Kerala**, marks a pivotal moment in the acknowledgment of feminist contributions to literature and social discourse.
- **Sopna Kallingal of Kallingal Plantation**, Thrissur, received **Spice Award 2024**, instituted by **ICAR-Indian Institute of Spices Research**. The award has been given to her for her initiatives in enterprise diversification and integrated crop management strategies, promoting a sustainable spice-based cropping system.
- **Roshni Nadar Malhotra**, Chairperson of IT services firm **HCLTech**, has been conferred with the "**Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur**" (Knight of the Legion of Honour), the highest civilian award of France.
- Tamil literature, renowned author **Sivashankari** has been selected as the recipient of the highly esteemed **Dr. C. Narayana Reddy National Literary Award**. This prestigious accolade celebrates her immense contributions to the rich tapestry of Tamil literary culture and her role in shaping contemporary Indian literature.
- In a significant recognition of his contributions to alternative medicine, **Dr. Arpit Chopra**, a distinguished homoeopathic practitioner, was bestowed with the **Excellence Award at the NDTV MSMES (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) Summit held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh**. The award ceremony, which took place at the Marriott Hotel, saw the presence of several high-ranking state officials and industry leaders.

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** ceremoniously presented with the **Order of St Andrew the Apostle the First-Called**, which was bestowed on him in the year 2019 at St Catherine's Hall of the Moscow Kremlin. The order was presented to the Prime Minister of India for his distinguished contribution to the development of a privileged strategic partnership between Russia and India and friendly ties between the two countries.
- In a significant recognition of his contributions to the field of **victimology**, retired professor **K. Chockalingam** from Tamil Nadu, India, has been selected for the esteemed **Hans von Hentig award**. This honour highlights the global impact of Indian scholarship in the study of crime victims and their experiences within the criminal justice system.
- Renowned sand artist **Sudarsan Pattnaik** on July 12, won the **Golden Sand Master award** at an international championship in **Russia**. The event, International Sand Sculpture Championship was **organised from July 4-12 in St Petersburg** at the iconic **Peter and Paul Fortress**. The **world's 21 master sculptors** participated in the event.
- **Andhra Pradesh Community Managed Natural Farming (APCNF)** initiative has been awarded the prestigious **2024 Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity**. This accolade not only highlights India's progress in sustainable farming but also places Andhra Pradesh on the global map for its pioneering efforts in eco-friendly agriculture.
- **Sobha Group's CSR wing, Sri Kurumba Educational and Charitable Trust**, has been honoured with the "**Best Child and Women Development Initiatives of the Year 2024**." This esteemed accolade was presented at the Global CSR, Sustainability, and ESG Awards 2024, at the **Hyatt Regency, Gurgaon**. The event was organised by Marketing and Brand Honchos and brought together industry leaders and champions of social responsibility.
- The **Committee on Space Research (COSPAR)**, the world's first scientific body dedicated to space science research, has recognized the outstanding contributions of two Indian space scientists at its 45th scientific assembly in Busan, South Korea. **Prahlad Chandra Agrawal**, one of India's most senior space scientists, received the esteemed **Harrie Massey Award**. **Anil Bhardwaj**, the director of the Ahmedabad-based **Physical Research Laboratory (PRL)**, was awarded the **Vikram Sarabhai Medal**.
- **Rigoberta Menchú Tum**, the renowned **Nobel Peace Prize** laureate and Guatemalan human rights activist, has been honored with the **Gandhi Mandela Award 2020**. This prestigious accolade recognizes her lifelong commitment to advocating for **Indigenous rights** and promoting peace and social justice.





- **Ram Charan**, the superstar known for his stellar performance in the global blockbuster “RRR”, is set to be the guest of honor at the prestigious **Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) 2024**. This recognition comes as a testament to his significant contributions to Indian cinema and his rising international profile.
- The **Indian Institute of Spices Research (IISR)** has received the best technology award for its pioneering work in the field of horticultural sciences. Union Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan presented the award during the **96th Foundation Day celebrations** of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in New Delhi.
- **Curator and author Rahaab Allana** has been awarded the insignia of **Officier dans l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres** by the **French government**.
- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has **honored Abhinav Bindra**, India’s first individual Olympic gold medallist, with the prestigious Olympic Order.
- Bollywood superstar **Shah Rukh Khan** has been honoured with customised **gold coins by the Grevin Museum in Paris**.
- Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, **Ashwini Vaishnaw**, announced the winners of the **10th National Community Radio Awards** and inaugurated the country’s **500th Community Radio Station**.
- The Town Official Language Implementation Committee (TOLIC) honored **Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs)** in Visakhapatnam with the **‘Rajbhasha Gaurav Samman’** for the year 2023-24.
- The **All India Tennis Association (AITA)** has announced the **Dilip Bose award** for lifetime achievement to coach **Nar Singh**. The first award would be presented to the 69-year-old **Rohini Lokhande** who was a member of the national team along with **Kiran Bedi, Nirupama Mankad, Susan Das and Udaya Kumar**, before she took to coaching at a young age.
- The **Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT)**, established on August 24, 1984, by the Government of India, is a premier telecom research and development centre. Its mission is to revolutionize the telecom sector in India by developing cutting-edge technologies and products tailored to Indian conditions.
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) has been awarded the Asia-Pacific region’s **‘Best Conduct of Business Regulator’** by **The Asian Banker**. The award was received by **SEBI’s Whole Time Member, Kamlesh Chandra Varshney**, at a ceremony held in Hong Kong.
- **Vellayan Subbiah**, **Executive Vice Chairman of Tube Investments of India (TII)** and Chairman of Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Co Ltd., secured the prestigious **EY World Entrepreneur of the Year 2024 award**, marking the fourth time an entrepreneur from India has won this global title. His visionary leadership and transformative strategies have propelled both TII and Chola to unprecedented success, earning him recognition on the global stage.
- **Siddhesh Sakore**, a farmer and the founder of **AGRO RANGERS from Maharashtra**, has been recognized as a Land Hero by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) on **World Desertification and Drought Day**. The announcement was made during a programme in Bonn, Germany, honoring 10 Land Heroes from around the globe.

Awards & Recognition of June 2024

- The famous Annual **Hindi Sahitya Bharati Award** has been given to **Krishna Prakash**, who is well-known for leading Mumbai Police’s special counterterrorism team, Force One. The award was given out at Mumbai’s multicultural **Sab Me Ram Shashwat Shri Ram event**.
- **Poet and playwright Siddhalinga Pattanashetti** has been chosen for the prestigious **Gudleppa Hallikeri Award** for 2024 by the **Gudleppa Hallikeri Memorial Foundation, Hosaritti (Haveri District)**. Veeranna Chekki, senior trustee of the **Gudleppa Hallikeri Memorial foundation** of Hosaritti, haveri District announced. This is the **19th award** and will be presented in the honour of the birth anniversary of **Gudleppa Hallikeri on 6 June**.
- At the prestigious **New York Indian Film Festival 2024**, Sanya Malhotra has etched her name in glory by winning the **Best Actress award** for her captivating performance in the film “Mrs.” This triumph marks a significant milestone in Malhotra’s burgeoning career and underscores her exceptional talent as an actress.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has been awarded the prestigious **“Risk Manager of the Year Award 2024”** by Central Banking, a renowned publication headquartered in London. This accolade recognizes the RBI’s significant strides in cultivating a robust risk culture and heightened awareness, solidifying its essential role in maintaining the stability of India’s financial system.
- The **Sahitya Akademi** on June 15, announced the names of **23 writers**, including English writer **K Vaishali** and Hindi author **Gaurav Pandey**, who will receive the prestigious **Yuva Puraskar** across as many languages.
- The **Kottakkal Arya Vaidya Sala**, a renowned Ayurvedic institution, celebrated a significant achievement as its **managing trustee and chief physician, P. Madhavankutty Varier**, was awarded an **honorary Doctor of Science (DSc) degree** by the **Kerala University of Health Sciences (KUHS)**.
- Eminent children’s filmmaker **Vinod Ganatra** has become the first Indian to be conferred with South Africa’s prestigious **‘Nelson Mandela Lifetime Achievement Award’** for his outstanding contribution to children’s cinema. The award was presented to him at the 7th Nelson Mandela Children’s Film Festival.





- The renowned wildlife filmmaker **Subbiah Nallamuthu** has been conferred with the prestigious **18th V. Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award** for his outstanding contributions to the field of non-feature and wildlife documentary filmmaking. The award was presented to him by the **Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, L. Murugan**, at the inaugural ceremony of the 18th Mumbai International Film Festival in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- **Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB)**, a regional rural bank sponsored by **Canara Bank**, has been honoured with a national award by the **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** for significant enrolment under the **Atal Pension Yojana (APY)**.
- **India's first artificial intelligence university**, Universal AI University (UAIU), has appointed international strategist and multiple award-winning professor **Simon Mak** as its **vice-chancellor**. Mak is the first non-Indian to hold the position of **founding vice chancellor** of an Indian institution.
- **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) Ltd.** has been honoured with the **"Sustainable Governance Champion Award"** at the Outlook Planet Sustainability Summit & Awards 2024. This recognition highlights GRSE's unwavering commitment to sustainable practices and governance excellence.
- In a significant recognition of her literary contributions, **Booker Prize-winning author Arundhati Roy** has been awarded the esteemed **Pen Pinter Prize** for 2024. This honour comes at a time when Roy faces potential legal challenges, highlighting the importance of her work and the ongoing struggle for freedom of expression.
- In a heartwarming celebration of linguistic and cultural ties between India and Nepal, **Dr. Usha Thakur** has been honoured with the **12th Vishwa Hindi Samman**. This prestigious award recognizes her outstanding contributions to Hindi literature and her efforts in strengthening the bonds between Hindi and Nepali languages.

Summits | Events | Festivals (National/International)

Summits | Events | Festivals (National/International) of December 2024

Category	Event	Venue	Key Points
Conclave	India Maritime Heritage Conclave 2024		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 1st India Maritime Heritage Conclave (IMHC 2024), organized by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) on December 11-12, marked a significant occasion to honor India's rich maritime legacy while envisioning its future as a global maritime leader. This landmark event brought together key ministers, maritime experts, and international dignitaries, reaffirming India's crucial role in global trade and culture. • The conclave also highlighted the nation's growing maritime potential, emphasizing sustainable practices and opportunities for employment and innovation in the sector. • A focal point of the conclave was the upcoming National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) in Lothal, Gujarat, a city with historical significance dating back to 2600 BCE. The NMHC will showcase ancient shipbuilding methods and trade techniques, celebrating India's historical contributions to global maritime practices. • The conclave was a collaborative effort, with contributions from the Ministry of Labor and Employment, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Ministry of Education, and Ministry of Tourism and Culture, alongside the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways. States like Gujarat, Goa, Bihar, and Arunachal Pradesh also played a key role, reflecting the event's national importance.
Conference	14th Asia-Oceania Meteorological Satellite Users' Conference (AOMSUC-14)	New Delhi	The 14th Asia-Oceania Meteorological Satellite Users' Conference (AOMSUC-14) is being held from December 4-6, 2024 in New Delhi , hosted by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) . The event brings together meteorologists, satellite operators, scientists, and researchers to promote collaboration and advance satellite meteorology through presentations, panel discussions, and a training workshop .





Category	Event	Venue	Key Points
Conference	World Maritime Technology Conference	Chennai, India	The World Maritime Technology Conference (WMTC) , held every three years, will take place in Chennai, India from December 4-6, 2024 . Organized by the World Maritime Technology Congress , the event brings together 21 member organizations from 17 countries in the maritime technology sector. It will be hosted by the Institute of Marine Engineers (India) Chennai Branch.
Conference	10th World Ayurveda Congress (WAC 2024)	Dehradun	The 10th World Ayurveda Congress (WAC 2024) and Arogya Expo were inaugurated in Dehradun , with a focus on “Digital Health: An Ayurveda Perspective.” Dignitaries like Union Minister Prataprao Jadhav and Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami attended the event, emphasizing Ayurveda's integration with modern technology. Key announcements included the launch of Prakriti Parikshan Abhiyan , aiming to assess the constitution of 1 crore individuals, and the introduction of the Ayush Grid to enhance healthcare delivery, supported by a \$1.3 billion investment pipeline.

Summits | Events | Festivals (National/International) of November 2024

Category	Event	Venue	Key Points
Summits	COP29 Summit	Baku, Azerbaijan (Nov 11-22, 2024)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COP 29 Venue: The 2024 UN Climate Change Conference (COP 29) held in Baku, Azerbaijan, 22nd November 2024. • Key Focus: Enhanced transparency framework, collective quantified goal on finance, and the next round of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). • Parallel Meetings: CMP 19 (Kyoto Protocol), CMA 6 (Paris Agreement), SBSTA 61, and SBI 61 will also take place alongside COP 29. • Theme: Azerbaijan’s COP 29 Presidency operates under the theme “In Solidarity for a Green World.” • COP 29 Presidency Pillars: Enhancing Ambition for the 1.5°C goal and Enabling Action with financial and technical support for NDCs. • Minister Mukhtar Babayev: Leads Azerbaijan’s COP 29 Presidency. • Roadmap to Mission 1.5°C: Joint initiative by COP 28, COP 29, and COP 30 Presidencies to enhance NDC ambition through global cooperation. • Climate Finance Focus: Discussions on achieving the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) for developing nations. • Unmet Commitments: Developed countries pledged \$100 billion annually in 2009 but remain short of targets. • Estimated Needs: \$580 billion is required by 2030 for addressing climate-induced loss and damage. • Carbon Markets: Key discussions on carbon trading to meet Paris Agreement targets. • NDC Submission Deadline: New NDCs due by February 2025 with updated emission reduction goals. • US Political Influence: Possible re-election of Donald Trump could impact global climate cooperation. • Azerbaijan’s Controversies: Critics question its human rights record and reliance on fossil fuels as a “petro-state.” • Financial Goals: Success indicators include securing financial agreements and advancing carbon market mechanisms.





Category	Event	Venue	Key Points
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future COP Host: Australia is likely to host COP 31, with a focus on Pacific region climate issues.
Summits	SATRC-25	New Delhi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SATRC-25 held in New Delhi (Nov 11-13, 2024), inaugurated by Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia. • Highlighted India's role as the "Voice of the Global South" and need for collaborative telecom policies. • Focused on digital inclusivity, sustainable infrastructure, consumer protection, and regulatory innovation. • India's digital economy: 1.2 billion phones, 970 million internet users, projected to reach 20% of GDP by 2026-27. • Emphasized knowledge sharing, regional cooperation, and policy harmonization for sustainable growth. • Organized by Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT); hosted by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).
Summits	Asian Buddhist Summit	New Delhi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India is hosting the first-ever Asian Buddhist Summit (ABS) in New Delhi from November 5 to 6, 2024, under the theme, "Role of Buddha Dhamma in Strengthening Asia." • This event, organized by the Ministry of Culture and the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC), celebrates the deep-rooted Buddhist heritage in India and underscores its role in promoting peace and unity across Asia.
Summits	G-20 Summit	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why in News: 2024 G20 Summit held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, addressing global challenges like hunger, poverty, and climate change. • Brazil's Role: Hosted by Brazil under President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. • Key Proposals: Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty, Tropical Forest Forever Fund, and a transition to a low-carbon economy. • Key Declaration: Rio de Janeiro Declaration emphasizing food sovereignty, agroecological practices, and governance reform. • Climate Change: Focus on emission reduction, deforestation prevention, and sustainable economies. • Global Governance Reform: Call to reform the UN Security Council for better Global South representation. • Tax Justice: Advocacy for progressive taxation of the super-rich to fund social policies. • Participating Countries: Brazil, with contributions from civil society groups and marginalized communities. • Social Movements Representation: Involvement of women, black communities, indigenous peoples, workers, and LGBTQIA+ communities. • Notable People: President Lula da Silva, Mazé Morais, Oliver Röpke. • Key Schemes: Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty aligned with SDGs for food sovereignty. • Next G20 Host: South Africa will host the next G20 Summit.
Summits	India-Australia 2nd Annual Summit	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why in the news? India and Australia concluded their 2nd Annual Summit alongside G20 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. • Economic and Trade Relations: Surge in bilateral trade under ECTA, progress on CECA, and extension of AIBX till 2028. • Energy, Science, and Technology: Launch of Renewable Energy Partnership (REP) for green hydrogen, solar PV, and energy storage, collaboration on critical minerals, and deepening space cooperation.





Category	Event	Venue	Key Points
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defence and Security: Renewal of Defence and Security Declaration in 2025, joint maritime security roadmap, and enhanced interoperability. • Parliamentary Cooperation: Agreement to strengthen inter-parliamentary exchanges. • Education and People-to-People Ties: New consulates in Bengaluru and Brisbane, launch of Working Holiday Maker Visa and MATES Scheme, and expansion of Australian university campuses in India. • Sports Diplomacy: Collaboration in training, workforce development, and sports science. • Regional and Multilateral Cooperation: Commitment to an open Indo-Pacific, enhanced cooperation in Quad and IORA, and bilateral efforts under IPOI for maritime ecology. • Global Peace and Security: Joint condemnation of terrorism, support for FATF initiatives, and advocacy for conflict resolution via diplomacy. • Looking Ahead: Plans to commemorate the 5th anniversary of CSP in 2025 and India to host the 3rd Annual Summit.
Events	352nd Governing Body meeting of the International Labour Organisation	Geneva	<p>The 352nd Governing Body meeting of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) is currently taking place in Geneva. Dates : 28th October to November 7th.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From India Sumita Dawra, Labour and Employment Secretary of India, presented India's initiatives and progress in improving living standards and employment. <p>Agenda Highlights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Plan for 2026–2029 • Global Coalition for Social Justice • Democratization of Governance <p>World Summit for Social Development 2025</p>
Events	ISA's Key Decisions In 7 th Assembly Session		<p>India, France elected President, Co-president of International Solar Alliance for 2 years from 2024-2026 Decision was taken at the 7th Session of ISA at Bharat Mandapam. Regional Vice Eight Vice Presidents appointed across four regions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Africa: Ghana and Seychelles (Vice Presidents); South Sudan and Comoros (Vice Chairs). • Asia and the Pacific: Australia and Sri Lanka (Vice Presidents); UAE and Papua New Guinea (Vice Chairs). • Europe and Others: Germany and Italy (Vice Presidents); Greece and Norway (Vice Chairs). • Latin America and Caribbean: Grenada and Suriname (Vice Presidents); Jamaica and Haiti (Vice Chairs). <p>Ashish Khanna appointed Director General-Designate, to assume office in March 2025 following Ajay Mathur's term.</p>
Conference	Sagarmanthan Dialogue 2024		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sagarmanthan Dialogue 2024 highlights India's push to lead in sustainability, innovation, and connectivity. • India's maritime sector is crucial to its economic growth, with a 7,500-kilometer coastline, 12 major ports, and over 200 minor ports. It handles 95% of trade by volume and 70% by value, and ranks as the third-largest in ship recycling globally. • In 2023, India had a fleet of 1,530 ships. The sector has seen significant growth, with cargo capacity at major ports increasing by 87.01% from 2014-15 to 2023-24. • Merchandise exports reached USD 451 billion in FY23. Paradip Port: Became India's largest port by cargo volume in FY24, handling 145.38 million tonnes.





Category	Event	Venue	Key Points
Conference	Global Cooperative Conference 2024		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Global Cooperative Conference 2024 was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, marking the launch of the United Nations' International Year of Cooperatives 2025. The event highlighted the role of cooperatives in global development, particularly for rural populations, women, and farmers. Key moments included the release of a commemorative postal stamp and an address by Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Summits | Events | Festivals (National/International) of October 2024

- Shri Prataprao Jadhav, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Ayush, and Union Minister of State, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, inaugurated the Ayush Medical Value Travel Summit 2024. The event took place in Mumbai.
- Italian Prime Minister **Giorgia Meloni** convened a **call of G7 leaders** to discuss the escalating **crisis in the Middle East**. Italy, holding the rotating presidency of the G7, emphasized its commitment to finding a diplomatic solution amidst growing tensions, particularly focusing on the Israeli-Lebanese border and Iran’s missile attack on Israel.
- **External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar** will lead India’s delegation to Pakistan for the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation’s (SCO) Heads of Government meeting** in Islamabad on October 15-16, 2024. This marks the **first visit by** an Indian External Affairs Minister to Pakistan since **Sushma Swaraj** attended a **conference in 2015**. The visit is focused on the SCO’s regional cooperation agenda, with no bilateral meetings confirmed as of now, according to the Ministry of External Affairs.
- The **World Health Organisation (WHO)** has commenced its **77th Regional Committee session** for Southeast Asia in New Delhi, marking a significant gathering of health leaders from across the region. **JP Nadda**, India’s Minister of Health, has been elected as the **Chairperson** of the 77th Session, bringing his extensive experience in health policy to guide the deliberations.
- **The Second Army Commanders’ Conference of 2024** began on October 10 in a hybrid format at a forward location in **Gangtok, Sikkim**. Bringing together senior leaders of the Indian Army, the conference serves as a crucial platform to review the nation’s overall security landscape, address key conceptual issues, and devise strategies to tackle emerging challenges.
- The **44th and 45th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summits** and related events began on October 9 in Vientiane, Laos, focusing on the theme **“ASEAN: Enhancing**

- **Connectivity and Resilience.”** Lao President Thongloun Sisoulith urged member countries to uphold peace, stability, and sustainable development while honoring their commitments to multilateralism. This year marks a significant opportunity for ASEAN to build a more integrated and resilient community in response to pressing challenges.
- The **India Digital Agri Conference 2024**, co-organized by the **Indian Chamber of Food and Agriculture (ICFA) and IIT Ropar TIF – AWaDH in New Delhi**, marked a significant milestone in revolutionizing Indian agriculture. The event focused on leveraging digital technologies like AI, IoT, drones, and data analytics to address challenges such as climate change, food security, and sustainable resource management. By modernizing farming practices, enhancing productivity, and fostering cross-sector collaboration, the conference laid the foundation for **India’s leadership in Agri-tech**.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **first-ever telecom standards conference** organized by the **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)** in India, alongside the eighth edition of the India Mobile Congress (IMC) in New Delhi. This event marks a significant milestone for India as it hosts the **World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA)** for the first time in the Asia-Pacific region, highlighting India’s growing role in the global telecom landscape.
- **Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, the Union Minister of Communications and Development of the North Eastern Region**, inaugurated the International 6G Symposium alongside the **ITU-WTSA24 and IMC 24 events**. He emphasized the transformative potential of 6G technology in driving economic growth and innovation, stating that the shift towards software-centric approaches offers a significant opportunity for India, which boasts a large pool of engineering and software talent.
- **NITI Aayog** is gearing up to host the **Second International Methanol Seminar and Expo 2024 on October 17-18, 2024**, at the Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi. This two-day event is a significant part of India’s Methanol Economy Programme, initiated in 2016 in collaboration with the Methanol Institute, USA.





- The seminar will bring together global experts, industry leaders, and policymakers to discuss the future of methanol as a low-carbon fuel and its role in the world energy transition.
- On its 31st Foundation Day, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) organized a day-long national conference on the “Rights of Older Persons” at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. During the keynote address, Acting Chairperson Smt. Vijaya Bharathi Sayani emphasized the invaluable role of elders as the architects of the nation’s history, keepers of cultural heritage, and foundational pillars of families.

Conference Overview

- NHRC’s 31st Foundation Day conference focused on the “Rights of Older Persons.”
- The event aimed to address the growing challenges faced by the elderly population in India.

The 2024 BRICS Summit, held in Kazan, Russia, from October 22-24. The summit witnessed the adoption of the BRICS Kazan Declaration, endorsing UN reforms and investigating cross-border financial solutions to reduce reliance on the US dollar.

16th BRICS Summit: Key Outcomes

- **BRICS Pay:** A new payment system introduced to facilitate financial transactions among member nations, providing an alternative to SWIFT for international settlements.
- **Kazan Declaration:** Adoption of reforms to the UN, support for Palestine’s full UN membership under the two-state solution, and deliberations on using national currencies for trade.

The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting is proud to announce Australia as the “Country of Focus” for the 55th edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI), scheduled to take place in Goa from November 20 to 28, 2024. This special recognition celebrates Australia’s dynamic contributions to the global film industry, showcasing its rich storytelling traditions, vibrant cinema culture, and innovative cinematic techniques.

The 2024 edition of the Embassy’s flagship diaspora engagement event, Pravasi Parichay, was inaugurated by Dr. Suhel Ajaz Khan, the Ambassador of India to Saudi Arabia, at the Embassy Auditorium in Riyadh. This week-long cultural celebration kicked off with a specially curated event titled “Classical Languages of India,” designed to showcase the country’s rich linguistic diversity.

About Classical Languages of India

- **Earlier, India had six classical languages** Tamil, Sanskrit, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, and Odia.
- Tamil was declared a classical language in 2004, Sanskrit in 2005, Kannada in 2008, Telugu in 2008, Malayalam in 2013, and Odia in 2014.
- All the Classical Languages are listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.
- **In October 2024** The Union Cabinet granted classical language status to Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, and Bengali, increasing recognized classical languages to eleven.

The Asia Clean Energy Summit (ACES), a cornerstone event of the annual Singapore International Energy Week (SIEW), is held on the 11th edition from October 22-24, 2024, in Singapore. This premier conference and exhibition brings together experts, innovators, and policymakers to advance clean energy solutions in Asia.

Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel inaugurated the 17th Urban Mobility India Conference & Expo-2024 today at the Mahatma Mandir Convention Centre in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The event, running from October 25 to 27, 2024, gathers over 2,000 professionals and academics to discuss the future of urban transport in India. The conference focuses on the theme “Standardisation and Optimisation of Urban Transport Solutions,” aiming to enhance urban mobility through integrated strategies and innovative practices.

Summits | Events | Festivals (National/International) of September 2024

- On September 4-5, 2024, a significant event took place in the military landscape of India. The first Joint Commander’s Conference of the Armed Forces was held in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, marking a new era in the coordination and integration of India’s military forces.
- Indian Coast Guard participated in the 20th Heads of Asian Coast Guard Agencies Meeting (HACGAM) held in Incheon, South Korea. This important gathering, which took place from September 2-6, 2024, brought together coast guard agencies from across Asia to discuss crucial maritime issues and strengthen collaborative efforts.
- As a precursor to International Literacy Day 2024, the Ministry of Education, Government of India, will host an International Conference titled “Spectrum of Literacy” on September 7, 2024. This virtual conference will be organized by CIET, NCERT, New Delhi, and will bring together global and national experts, educators, policymakers, and literacy advocates to explore the multifaceted dimensions of literacy in today’s world.
- India’s aviation sector has experienced significant growth, evolving into one of the largest and most dynamic markets in the world. With the 2nd Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation scheduled from September 11-12, 2024, in New Delhi, India is set to reinforce its leadership in aviation. The conference, co-hosted by ICAO and the Ministry of Civil Aviation, will focus on exploring new opportunities for growth, infrastructure, and collaboration, especially in regional connectivity.
- Union Minister for Civil Aviation, Shri Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu, inaugurated the 2nd Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation (APMC) at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, on 11th September. Along with him, the Union Minister for State also attended the event.





- India took part in the **BRICS Literature Forum 2024**, which began in **Kazan, Russia on 11th September 2024**. The event, inaugurated by **Kazan Mayor Ilсур Metshin**, focused on the theme **“World Literature in the New Reality: Dialogue of Traditions, National Values, and Cultures.”**
- The third edition of the **INDUS-X Summit, held on 9-10 September 2024 in California**, marked significant progress in advancing a joint defence innovation ecosystem between India and the **USA. Co-organised by the U.S.-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF)** and Stanford University, the event focused on deepening defence collaboration through innovation, joint research, and investment.
- The Indian government will host the inaugural **World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit (WAVES)** from February 5 to 9, 2025, to boost the **country’s media and entertainment industry** and enhance its global influence. This will be the first global summit covering the entire media and entertainment spectrum.
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi participated in the sixth Quad Leaders’ Summit in Wilmington, Delaware on **21 September 2024**, hosted by the **President of the United States of America, Joseph R. Biden**, Prime Minister of Australia Mr. Anthony Albanese and Prime Minister of Japan Fumio Kishida also participated.
- The Indian Navy hosted the fifth edition of the **Goa Maritime Symposium (GMS) 2024** from 23-24 September under the aegis of the Naval War College, Goa. Conducted in the newly inaugurated Chola building, this year’s theme was **“Common Maritime Security Challenges in the IOR – Progressing Lines of Effort to Mitigate Dynamic Threats such as Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing and Other Illegal Maritime Activities.”**
- **External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar** participated in the **first-ever Joint Ministerial Meeting of the L.69 and C-10 groupings of nations** on the sidelines of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.
- As India gears for hosting **World Telecom Standardisation Assembly (WTS2024)**, Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has set the ball rolling by launching the **WTS2024 Outreach Sessions**, Scheduled in Delhi, Hyderabad, and Bengaluru.
- **The 9th Ladakh Zaskar Festival 2024** began with remarkable grandeur in the picturesque **village of Sani**, signifying a landmark event for the region. **This year’s Zaskar Festival** is especially significant as it marks the first celebration since **Zaskar was officially declared a district**.

Summits Held Nationally

- India participated in the **G20 Agriculture Ministerial Meeting** in **Cuiabá, Brazil**. Led by Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers’ **Welfare, Ram Nath Thakur**, the Indian delegation engaged in bilateral discussions with several global partners to enhance agricultural cooperation and address market access issues.

- **India** is set to host the **2nd Formal Meeting of the COP9** (Conference of Parties) Bureau and the **3rd Formal Meeting of the Fund Approval Committee under the UNESCO** (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) **International Convention against Doping in Sport** on September 17-18, 2024, in **New Delhi**.
- At the **4th RE-Invest Summit**, hosted by the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)** and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), leading renewable energy (RE) developers, manufacturing companies, banks, and financial institutions pledged close to **\$386 billion (Rs 32.45 trillion)** to develop **RE projects by 2030**.
- The **Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti**, organized the **International WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) Conference** during the 8th India Water Week from 17th-19th September 2024 in New Delhi. The conference, with the theme ‘Sustaining Rural Water Supply’, focused on knowledge exchange, innovations, and best practices to tackle global WASH challenges, especially **Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6)**.
- The **Sharjah Investment Forum (SIF) 2024** has concluded, marking a significant milestone in the realm of global business and technology. Held at the prestigious **Al Jawaher Reception and Convention Centre**, this two-day event drew an impressive crowd of over **5,000 attendees**, including a diverse array of high-profile officials, entrepreneurs, and industry leaders from around the world.
- **The Ministry of Food Processing Industries** is all set to host the **third edition of World Food India 2024**, from September 19 to 22, at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. **Aimed at becoming the largest event for the food processing and allied sectors in India**, this prestigious gathering will bring together industry leaders from across the globe.
- The **second edition of the Global Food Regulators Summit** was inaugurated on September 20, 2024, in **New Delhi**, marking a significant milestone in international cooperation for food safety and regulation. This high-profile event, organized alongside the **3rd World Food India 2024**, brings together food regulators and experts from around the world to discuss critical issues in food safety and standards.

Summits | Events | Festivals (National/International) of August 2024

- The **Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **32nd International Conference of Agricultural Economists (ICAIE)** at National Agricultural Science Centre (NASC) Complex, **New Delhi** on August 3.
- The **Ministry of External Affairs** of the Government of India in association with Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) will host the **1st BIMSTEC Business Summit in New Delhi** on August 6, 2024.
- India will host the **3rd Voice of Global South Summit** on 17 August 2024. This unique initiative began as an extension of





Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas aur Sabka Prayas', and is underpinned by India's philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.

- **India and Japan** will hold **2+2 Ministerial Dialogue** in New Delhi on August 20. On the sidelines of the 2+2 dialogue, a bilateral meeting is scheduled between the Defence Minister and his Japanese counterpart.
- The **European Union (EU)** and the **external affairs ministry** are organising a regional conference in New Delhi to discuss emerging threats in **online radicalisation** and to jointly counter the **exploitation of online spaces** by terrorists.
- The **2nd India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable (ISMR)**, aimed at further strengthening trade and economic ties between the two countries, will be held in Singapore on August 26.
- The **Second Meeting of the Joint Russian- Indian Commission** on the Cooperation in the Field of Emergency Management was held on 28th August 2024 in **Moscow, Russia**.
- The **US-India Strategic Partnership Forum** announced the third edition of the **India-US Defense Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS-X) Summit** at Stanford University on Sept 9-10, 2024.

Summits | Events | Festivals (National/International) of July 2024

- The **International Association of Stem Cell & Regenerative Medicine (IASRM)** and the **Anti-Ageing Foundation (India)** hosted the **9th Annual World Congress – Longevity Revolution 2024 in New Delhi**. The event featured **advances in regenerative medicine, workshops, keynotes** from renowned scientists, and discussions on aging, aesthetics, and health.
- The **'Global IndiaAI Summit 2024'** commences today in **New Delhi**, hosted by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. This two-day event aims to position India as a global leader in AI innovation while promoting ethical and inclusive AI advancement. It will feature sessions on IndiaAI's strategic pillars, including compute capacity, datasets platform, innovation centers, and skills development. Sessions will explore topics like **'IndiaAI: Large Language Models'** and **'GPAI Convening on Global Health and AI'**.
- India chaired its first meeting as Chair of the **'Colombo Process'** at the Permanent Representative **Level Meeting in Geneva**, marking a significant moment in regional migration cooperation. The Colombo Process, comprising 12 Asian member states, focuses on enhancing governance and opportunities for overseas employment. Under India's leadership, priorities include financial sustainability, membership expansion, and collaboration with regional bodies like the Abu Dhabi Dialogue.

- Laos authorities have discussed preparations for the **57th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Foreign Ministers' Meeting** and related meetings, scheduled to take place in the **Laos capital Vientiane from July 21 to 27**.
- The **NATO summit**, hosted by **President Joe Biden in Washington, DC** from July 9 to 11, marks a pivotal moment for the alliance. It will include Sweden as a new member, highlighting NATO's expansion and unity amidst global challenges. Biden aims to strengthen support for Ukraine, with announcements expected to bolster military, political, and financial aid. The summit, commemorating **NATO's 75th anniversary**, underscores its role in Euro-Atlantic security and collective defense against evolving threats.
- **Om Birla, Speaker of the Lok Sabha**, will head a prominent Indian parliamentary delegation to the **10th BRICS Parliamentary Forum in St. Petersburg, Russia**. The forum aims to explore the role of parliaments in advancing global development and security through multilateral cooperation.
- **India** will host the first **World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit** in November alongside the International Film Festival of India in **Goa**. I&B Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw promising to strengthen the ecosystem for the protection of intellectual property rights in the media and entertainment sector.
- **IIT Delhi and Prasar Bharati** will host the **two-day Robot Competition 'DD-Robocon' India 2024** from July 13, at **Thyagaraj Stadium in Delhi**. The event will host more than **750 students** from over 45 colleges, institutions, and universities in the country.
- The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** is set to make history as it holds its **Annual Conference** in Sri Lanka from July 19th to 22nd, 2024. This marks the **first time** the prestigious event will be hosted in the **Asian region**, highlighting the growing importance of Asian cricket on the global stage.
- The **All-India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) in New Delhi** successfully concluded its **Second National Seminar SAUSHRUTAM Shalya Sangoshti** on July 15, 2024, celebrating Sushruta Jayanti. The three-day event, beginning on July 13, honored Sushruta, the father of surgery, with a series of live surgical demonstrations and expert discussions.
- India is hosting the **UNESCO World Heritage Committee meeting for the first time**, alongside the **2024 World Heritage Young Professionals Forum in New Delhi**. From July 14 to 23, young professionals from around the world will gather to enhance their skills in heritage preservation and sustainable development. The forum, organized by the **Ministry of Culture and the Archaeological Survey of India**, focuses on integrating global heritage concepts with local Indian heritage management.
- **India** is set to host the second Asia Pacific ministerial conference on **civil aviation on September 11 and 12**, with representatives from **around 40 countries**, including **China and Pakistan**. The Asia Pacific region is a significant contributor to global air traffic, and India the world's fastest-growing aviation market.





- **Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI)**, under the **Biotechnology Research and Innovation Council (BRIC)**, hosted **SYNCHN 2024** on July 14th, 2024. This event aimed to strengthen academia-industry collaborations in the NCR Biotech Cluster, focusing on advancing biomanufacturing and bio-innovation.
- A milestone event in space exploration, the **45th Scientific Assembly of the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR)** commenced in **Busan, South Korea**. Hosted for the first time by South Korea, the conference gathered 3,000 scientists and industry leaders from 60 nations.
- The Indian team, which participated at the **35th International Biology Olympiad (IBO) 2024** achieved remarkable success, with one student winning a **GOLD medal** and three students securing **SILVER medals**.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **46th session of the World Heritage Committee** at **Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi**, emphasizing India's commitment to global heritage preservation. **PM Modi announced a \$1 million contribution to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre for heritage conservation**, particularly in the Global South. He highlighted India's efforts in conserving heritage sites in countries like Cambodia, Vietnam, and Myanmar.

Summits | Events | Festivals (National/International) of June 2024

- The 21st edition of the Asia Pacific premier defence meet, the **Shangri-La Dialogue or the Asian Security Summit**, concluded in **Singapore on 2 June 2024**. Held at the Shangri-La Hotel from 31 May to 2 June, the Dialogue saw participation from over a hundred delegates worldwide, discussing pressing security challenges and exploring fresh approaches.
- The **KAZA 2024 Heads of State Summit** ended in the Zambian resort town of Livingstone on May 31, with leaders of the **five member countries** agreeing to argue their case for lifting of the ban on ivory trade at the **20th meeting of the Conference of Parties (CoP20)** of the **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)** due next year in Geneva, Switzerland.
- India will host the prestigious **81st International Air Transport Association (IATA) Annual General Meeting (AGM) in 2025**, marking its return after a **42-year hiatus**. This significant event, scheduled for June 8 to 10, will convene in Delhi, the third time the city has hosted the AGM after 1958 and 1983.
- **Analytical science** refers to the art of measurement and its interpretation. It involves improving the means of measuring the **chemical composition, structure, and morphology** of natural and man-made substances or entities and interpreting the data obtained.

- The **Indian tripartite delegation** led by Secretary (Labour & Employment), **Ms. Sumita Dawra**, participated in the **112th session of the International Labour Conference (ILC)** of **International Labour Organisation (ILO)** being held in **Geneva, Switzerland**.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** leaves for Italy to attend the **50th G7 leaders' summit**. It will be his first trip abroad after assuming charge as the Prime Minister for the third term. Modi, accompanied by a high-level delegation, will attend an outreach session on the **summit on June 14**. The session will be focused on issues relating to **artificial intelligence, energy, Africa and the Mediterranean**.
- The two day **India-IORA Cruise Tourism Conference** concluded in New Delhi on June 14. Officials and experts from the **Indian Ocean Rim Association, IORA Member States** including **Bangladesh, Kenya, Madagascar, Maldives, Mozambique, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Seychelles and Tanzania** participated in the Conference.
- **Shri Pavan Kapoor, Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs**, represented India at the **Summit on Peace in Ukraine**, hosted by **Switzerland at Burgenstock on June 15-16, 2024**. India attended the Opening and Closing Plenary Sessions of the Summit but did not align itself with any communique or document that emerged. This highlights India's consistent and independent approach to achieving a peaceful resolution to the conflict through dialogue and diplomacy.
- The mid-year **climate discussions in Bonn, Germany**, concluded recently with **limited progress**, raising concerns for a potentially challenging road ahead to the **COP29** summit to be held in **Baku, Azerbaijan**, later this year.
- At the recent **Summit on Peace in Ukraine hosted by Switzerland**, India opted not to sign the final communique alongside several other nations. This decision stemmed from India's strategic relationship with Russia, its primary defense supplier, and Moscow's absence from the summit, which India deemed crucial for any lasting peace agreement involving Ukraine.
- The **112th International Labour Organization (ILC)** was held in **Geneva from 3-14 June 2024**. It was attended by more than **4,900 delegates – representing Governments, and Employers' and Workers' organizations**. The **113rd ILC** will be held in June 2025.
- The 64th **International Sugar Organisation (ISO) Council meeting** commenced on **25th June 2024** at **Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi**, bringing together delegates from over **30 countries** and representatives of various international organizations. The meeting, held from 25-27 June 2024, aims to discuss issues related to the sugar industry and biofuels sectors.
- External Affairs Minister **S Jaishankar** represent India at the annual summit of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** in **Astana** next week. The summit, to be held on **July 3 and 4**, is expected to focus on the **regional security situation** and ways to **boost connectivity and trade**.





List/Indexes (Ranks & Reports)

List/Indexes (Ranks & Reports) on December 2024

RANKING

- **IndiGo Airlines** ranked **103rd out of 109** in the 2024 **AirHelp Score** report, placing it among the worst-performing global airlines. **Air India** ranked slightly better at **61st**. IndiGo disputes the findings, criticizing the **methodology** for lacking **transparency**, particularly regarding the **sample size** from India.
- India has become the global leader in **mobile malware attacks**, surpassing the **US** and **Canada**, with **28%** of global attacks in 2024, according to a **Zscaler ThreatLabz report**. This rise highlights the increasing **cybersecurity vulnerabilities** amid India's rapid **digital transformation**, especially with a surge in **Trojans** and **phishing attacks** targeting the **financial sector**.
- **Kerala** ranks **fifth** in the **India Skills Report 2025**, with an impressive **71% employability rate**. The state is recognized for its **talent, workplace inclusivity**, and effective **education and skill development**. The report also highlights **India's leadership** in **AI skill penetration** and the **transformative impact** of AI on the workforce. Kerala secures the fifth position nationally, after Maharashtra, Delhi, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh.
- A **UNCCD** report highlights that over **77%** of Earth's land has become drier over the past 30 years, leading to an expansion of **global drylands** by 4.3 million square kilometers. If **greenhouse gas emissions** aren't reduced, an additional 3% of **humid areas** could turn into drylands by 2100. This will severely affect **2.3 billion people** currently living in drylands, with projections rising to **5 billion** by the century's end.
- **Taste Atlas** has ranked the **Top 10 Best Food Cities in the World** for 2024-25, with **Italy** dominating the list, claiming six spots. **Mumbai** ranks 5th, showcasing India's culinary diversity, particularly with **Vada Pav**. Other notable cities include **Osaka** (Japan) and **Paris** (France). The rankings are based on over **477,000 ratings** of dishes, with cities like **Naples, Milan, and Bologna** topping the list. Indian cities like **Amritsar, New Delhi, Hyderabad, and Kolkata** also feature, reflecting India's growing global food recognition.

QS World University Rankings: Sustainability 2025

In a groundbreaking update to the global higher education scene, **QS Quacquarelli Symonds**, renowned for its expertise in university rankings, has released the **third edition of the 'QS World University Rankings: Sustainability 2025'**. This prestigious ranking evaluates universities based on their **sustainability initiatives**, considering factors like **environmental impact, social responsibility, and governance**. The 2025 edition has brought notable improvements for **Indian institutions**, especially the **Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs)**, with IIT Delhi securing a top spot.

QS World University Rankings: Sustainability 2025

Rank in India	2025 Ranking	2024 Ranking	Change	Institution
1	171	426	255	Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IITD)
2	202	349	147	Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur (IIT-KGP)
3	234	303	69	Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB)
4	245	522	277	Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK)
5	277	344	67	Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM)
6	299	220	-79	University of Delhi
7	376	505	129	Indian Institute of Science
8	396	449	53	Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT)
9	401	576	175	Manipal Academy of Higher Education – Manipal University (MAHE)
10	412	496	84	Anna University





List/Indexes (Ranks & Reports) on November 2024

RANKING

World Justice Project (WJP) Rule of Law Index 2024

Aspect	Global Rank	Regional Rank	Income Rank	Observations
Overall Ranking	79/142	3rd in South Asia	8th in Income Group	India ranks 79th globally, 3rd in South Asia, 8th among lower-middle-income countries
Constraints on Government Powers	60/142	2/6	3/38	Slight decline indicating challenges in balancing executive power
Absence of Corruption	97/142	3/6	15/38	Improved; reflects progress against corruption
Open Government	44/142	1/6	1/38	India leads in South Asia, showing transparency improvements
Fundamental Rights	102/142	3/6	15/38	Low ranking highlights ongoing issues in civil liberties
Order and Security	98/142	3/6	21/38	Challenges in safety and order
Regulatory Enforcement	78/142	3/6	11/38	Moderate ranking indicating need for regulatory consistency
Civil Justice	107/142	3/6	23/38	Low ranking due to delays and weak enforcement
Criminal Justice	89/142	3/6	14/38	Reflects accessibility challenges in the justice system

Top 10 Countries in WJP Rule of Law Index

Rank	Country	WJP Rule of Law Score
1	Denmark	0.87
2	Norway	0.86
3	Finland	0.84
4	Sweden	0.84
5	Germany	0.81
6	Netherlands	0.80
7	New Zealand	0.80
8	Canada	0.79
9	Australia	0.79
10	Singapore	0.78

Observations and Key Points

- Global Trend: Rule of law has declined globally for the 7th consecutive year, with scores dropping in 57% of countries.
- India’s Global Position: India ranks 79th out of 142 countries, holding the 3rd position among 6 South Asian countries.
- Income Group Ranking: Among lower-middle-income countries, India ranks 8th out of 38.
- South Asia Region: India ranks third after Nepal (69) and Sri Lanka (75), ahead of Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Afghanistan.
- Top Performing Countries: Denmark, Norway, and Finland lead in global rule of law, whereas Venezuela ranks lowest.

India’s Specific Rankings in Rule of Law Factors

- Constraints on Government Powers: Ranks 60th, showing a need for balance in executive power.
- Absence of Corruption: Ranked 97th; India has shown improvement here.
- Open Government: Leads in South Asia, indicating progress in transparency and openness.
- Fundamental Rights: Ranked 102nd, reflecting issues in protecting civil liberties.
- Justice System: Low ranks in Civil (107th) and Criminal Justice (89th), highlighting problems in efficiency and accessibility.

This structured format provides a concise overview of India’s position and insights from the WJP Rule of Law Index 2024.





London Leads Global City Brands Rankings Again

Summary/Static	Details
Why in the news?	London topped the list of the top 100 “city brands” for the second consecutive year
Top-ranked City	1. London (Ranked 1st for 2nd consecutive year)
Other Top 10 Cities	2. New York, 3. Paris, 4. Tokyo, 5. Dubai, 6. Singapore, 7. Los Angeles, 8. Sydney, 9. San Francisco, 10. Amsterdam
Survey Respondents	15,000 people from 20 countries (Including Türkiye, US, Germany, Australia, UAE, Brazil, China, etc.)
Ranking Criteria	Based on 7 pillars: Business & Investment, Liveability, Culture & Heritage, People & Values, Sustainability & Transport, Governance, Education & Science

India Secures Top-10 Position Globally in Patents, Trademarks, and Industrial Designs

Key Aspect	Details
Why in News	India ranked in the global top 10 for patents, trademarks, and industrial designs according to the WIPO 2024 report. It recorded the fastest patent growth at 15.7%, ranked sixth in patent filings, and fourth in trademark filings.
Patent Applications (2023)	India filed 64,480 patent applications, with 55.2% resident filings (first time achieving this milestone).
Patent Growth	15.7% increase in patent applications, marking the fifth consecutive year of double-digit growth.
Patents Granted (2023)	Increase of 149.4% in patents granted compared to the previous year.
Industrial Design Filings	36.4% rise in industrial design applications; top sectors: Textiles and Accessories, Tools and Machines, Health and Cosmetics.
Trademark Filings	India ranked fourth globally, with a 6.1% increase; nearly 90% filed by residents. Key sectors: Health (21.9%), Agriculture (15.3%), Clothing (12.8%).
Trademarks in Force	Over 3.2 million trademarks registered, second-largest number of active registrations globally.
Patent-to-GDP Ratio	Increased from 144 to 381 over the past decade.
Global Context	Asia accounted for 68.7% of global patent applications in 2023, with notable contributions from China, the US, Japan, South Korea, and India.

India’s Historic Rise: Ranked 6th Globally in WIPO Patent Filings 2023

Why in News	Key Points
India’s Global Patent Filing Rank in 2023	India ranked 6th in global patent filings for the first time in 2023.
Patent Filing Growth in India	India filed 64,480 patents in 2023, showing a 15.7% growth from 2022.
Global Patent Filing Total	Over 35 lakh patents were filed worldwide in 2023.
Top Countries in Patent Filings	1. China : 1.64 million patents, 2. USA : 518,364, 3. Japan : 414,413, 4. South Korea : 287,954, 5. Germany : 133,053, 6. India : 64,480.
Global Patent Filing Growth	Global patent filings increased by 15.7% in 2023, the 4th consecutive year of positive growth.





Why in News	Key Points
Asia's Share in Global IP Filings	Asia accounted for 68.7% of global patent filings, 66.7% of trademark filings, and 69% of industrial design filings in 2023.
India's Growth in IP Rights	India also ranked in the top 10 for industrial designs and trademarks .
Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)	Includes patents, copyrights, trademarks, industrial designs, geographical indications, and trade secrets.
Types of IPR:	Patents: Exclusive rights for inventions. Copyright: Literary and artistic works. Trademarks: Company identifiers. Industrial Designs: Aesthetic features of products. Geographical Indications: Origin-based goods. Trade Secrets: Confidential business info.

India Drops Two Spots in Global Climate Index

Summary/Static	Details
Why in the news?	India drops two places but remains among top 10 climate performers: Report
India's Rank	10th out of over 60 countries
Strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Low per-capita emissions (2.9 tCO₂e, below global average of 6.6 tCO₂e) – Rapid renewable energy growth (e.g., solar projects, Rooftop Solar Scheme) – Advancements in EV deployment, especially two-wheelers – Improved energy efficiency standards
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Heavy reliance on coal with plans to increase production – Growth-oriented approach driven by rising energy and industrial demand
Global Commitments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Net-zero emissions by 2070 – 500 GW renewable energy capacity by 2030
Global Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Top 3 CCPI spots left vacant due to no country achieving "very high" performance – 63 countries and EU assessed, contributing 90% of global emissions
Top Performers	– Denmark (4th), Netherlands (5th), UK (6th)
Lowest Performers	– Iran (67th), Saudi Arabia (66th), UAE (65th), Russia (64th)
China and US Rankings	China (55th) and US (57th) due to heavy coal dependency and weak targets
Argentina's Decline	Rank 59th due to new president's climate denial stance
India's Climate Approach	Growth-driven, reflecting industrial and population energy demands; need for transition away from fossil fuels

World Bank Launches 'Jobs at Your Doorstep' Report in Delhi

Summary/Static	Details
Why in the news?	World Bank Launches 'Jobs at Your Doorstep' Report in Delhi
Ministers Present	Dharmendra Pradhan (Education), Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya (Labour & Employment, Youth Affairs and Sports)
Main Focus	Skills gap analysis and aligning school curricula with local industry needs
States Covered	Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan
Report Title	Jobs at Your Doorstep: A Jobs Diagnostics for Young People in Six States
Report Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Analyze skills gaps in youth and align school curricula with industry needs – Focus on skill-based education from grades 9-12
Methodology	Bottom-up approach: Primary & secondary research in districts of six states
Recommended Framework	Pan-India framework to broaden the scope beyond the six states
NEP 2020 Alignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Emphasizes mainstreaming skill education in schools – Focus on consistent practice to master skills
Key Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Embed skill-based education early (grades 9-12) – Align skills taught with local industry requirements
Government's Perspective	– Broaden "jobs" to include economic empowerment and opportunities
Expected Outcome	– Empower youth through skills training, contributing to economic growth





Henley Passport Index 2024 October

Rank	Country	Visa-Free Access
1st	Singapore	195
2nd	France	192
2nd	Germany	192
2nd	Italy	192
2nd	Japan	192
2nd	Spain	192
3rd	Austria	191
3rd	Denmark	191
3rd	Finland	191
3rd	Ireland	191

India’s Position

In contrast, **India** ranks **83rd**, providing its citizens with **visa-free access to 58 countries**. This ranking underscores the challenges that Indian passport holders face in terms of global mobility. However, the growing emphasis on international relations may pave the way for improved access in the future.

The World’s Weakest Passports

While some passports grant their holders considerable travel freedom, others offer limited options. The **Henley Passport Index 2024** highlights the least powerful passports, which require holders to obtain visas for most international travel. The countries that rank at the bottom of the index include:

Rank	Country	Visa-Free Access
102nd	Pakistan	33
102nd	Yemen	33
103rd	Iraq	31
104th	Syria	27
105th	Afghanistan	26

Hurun India Philanthropy List 2024

Top 10 Philanthropists in 2024:

Rank	Name	Donation (INR Cr)	Growth (%)	Primary Cause	Company/Foundation
1	Shiv Nadar & Family	2,153	5%	Education	Shiv Nadar Foundation
2	Mukesh Ambani & Family	407	8%	Admission for Disadvantaged Communities	Reliance Foundation
3	Bajaj Family	352	33%	Education for Engineering	Bajaj Group Trust
4	Kumar Mangalam Birla & Family	334	17%	Education	Aditya Birla Capital Foundation
5	Gautam Adani & Family	330	16%	Education for Remote Villages	Adani Foundation
6	Nandan Nilekani	307	62%	Ecosystem Building	Nilekani Philanthropies
7	Krishna Chivukula	228	New	Education	ASHA Foundation
8	Anil Agarwal & Family	181	-25%	Education	Anil Agarwal Foundation
9	Susmita & Subroto Bagchi	179	63%	Public Healthcare	Mindtree
10	Rohini Nilekani	154	-10%	Ecosystem Building	Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies





QS Asia Rankings 2025

Category	Details
Top 5 Rankings	- 2025 Top Asian Universities include leading institutions from China, Singapore, and Japan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peking University • location Beijing, China (Mainland) • The University of Hong Kong • location Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR • National University of Singapore (NUS) • location Singapore, Singapore • Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU Singapore) • location Singapore, Singapore • Fudan University • location Shanghai, China (Mainland)
Indian Perspective	- India's top-ranked: IIT Delhi (44th), IIT Bombay (48th), IIT Madras (56th).
Produced By	Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) , an internationally recognized provider of global university rankings.
Past Ranking (India)	- In 2024, IIT Delhi was at 46th, IIT Bombay at 50th, and IIT Madras at 58th. Shows consistent improvement in Indian rankings over the years.
Parameters	- Academic Reputation - Faculty-Student Ratio - Citations per Paper - Papers per Faculty - International Research Network - Employer Reputation - Proportion of International Faculty and Students - Inbound and Outbound Exchange - Faculty with PhDs.
Organization Facts	- Headquarters in London, UK - Founded in 1990 - Specializes in global education and rankings.
Edition	2025, representing the latest insights and rankings in Asian academia.
Total Members / Countries	- Rankings include 984 institutions from 30+ Asian countries .
Reports Director's Name	- Ben Sowter , Senior Vice President and Director of QS Intelligence Unit.
Major Changes in Ranks	- IIT Delhi, Bombay, and Madras improved in Asian standings, entering top 50 for the first time in QS Asia. - Regional rank improvements noted for BRICS and G20 countries, especially in STEM-based metrics. NUST Islamabad from Pakistan shares the 6th position in South Asia alongside IIT Kanpur.

Global AI Preparedness India's Position Among Leading Nations

Summary	Details
Why in the news?	AI is revolutionizing the global economy. In the AI Preparedness Index India ranks 72 in the list. IMF AI Preparedness Index 2023 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Digital infrastructure, 2. Human capital, 3. Technological innovation, 4. Legal frameworks. Top 10 Countries <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Singapore, 2. Denmark, 3. USA, 4. Netherlands, 5. Estonia,





	6. Finland, 7. Switzerland, 8. New Zealand, 9. Germany, 10. Sweden India - 72nd, China - 31st, Sri Lanka 92nd, Bangladesh - 113th.
AI Preparedness Index	Released By IMF (Internal Monetary Fund)
Total Countries	174

Times Higher Education (THE) Interdisciplinary Science Rankings 2025

Category	Details
Key Highlight	India's growing role in interdisciplinary research, with 65 universities featured in THE Interdisciplinary Science Rankings 2025.
Top Indian Universities in THE Interdisciplinary Science Rankings 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anna University (Rank 42), • VIT University (Rank 65), • SRM Institute of Science and Technology (Rank 84), • KIIT University (Rank 92), • University of Delhi (Rank 98), • Lovely Professional University (Rank 99), • Amity University (Rank 101), • Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences (Rank 102), • Jamia Millia Islamia (Rank 103), • Jawaharlal Nehru University (Rank 105).
Global Leaders in Interdisciplinary Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MIT (USA) - Rank 1, • Stanford University (USA) - Rank 2, • National University of Singapore (Singapore) - Rank 3, • California Institute of Technology (USA) - Rank 4, • Duke University (USA) - Rank 5, • University of Minnesota (USA) - Rank 6.
Significance for India	Reflects India's growing contribution to interdisciplinary research that combines various fields (engineering, life sciences, computer science) to address global issues such as healthcare, climate change, and technological advancements.

Network Readiness Index 2024

Summary/Static	Details
Why in the news?	India ranks 49th in Global Network Readiness Index (NRI) 2024
Overall Global Rank	49th (Improved from 60th in 2023)
NRI Score	53.63 (Improved from 49.93 in 2023)
Global Ranking in Key Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AI Scientific Publications - 1st - AI Talent Concentration - 1st - ICT Services Exports - 1st - FTTH/Building Internet Subscriptions - 2nd - Mobile Broadband Internet Traffic - 2nd - International Internet Bandwidth - 2nd - Domestic Market Scale - 3rd - Annual Investment in Telecom Services - 4th
Regional Rank	2nd (Among lower-middle-income countries, after Vietnam)
Telecom Infrastructure Growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tele Density 84.69% (Increased from 75.2%) - Wireless Connections - 119 crore - Broadband Expansion - 94.4 crore (Increased from 25.1 crore)
5G Launch	2022 (Improved mobile broadband speed from 118th to 15th)





Summary/Static	Details
Future Vision	Bharat 6G Vision (Leadership in 6G telecom technologies)
Top 10 Countries	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. United States 2. Singapore 3. Finland 4. Sweden 5. Republic of Korea 6. Netherlands 7. Switzerland 8. United Kingdom 9. Germany 10. Denmark
India's Neighbouring Countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - China - 17th - India - 49th - Bangladesh - 89th - Sri Lanka - 95th - Pakistan - 97th

REPORT

Rise in Glacial Lake Himalaya Report Tells

Summary	Details
Why in the news?	<p>A government report indicated Glacial lake in Himalayan region have experienced a 10.81% increase in area from 2011 to 2024.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The total area of glacial lakes in India grew from 1,962 hectares in 2011 to 2,623 hectares in 2024, marking a 33.7% increase. • A total of 67 lakes in India experienced over 40% increase in surface area, categorizing them as high-risk for GLOFs. • The most notable expansions were recorded in Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh.
Central Water Commission HQ	New Delhi
CWC Chairman	Shri Kushvinder Vohra

ISA Launches World Solar Report Series

Summary/Static	Details
Why in the news?	3rd Edition of World Solar Report Series launched at the 7th Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA).
Released By	Pralhad Joshi, President of ISA Assembly and India's Minister for New and Renewable Energy.
Reports	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. World Solar Market Report 2. World Investment Report 3. World Technology Report 4. Green Hydrogen Readiness Assessment for African Countries
Overview of World Solar Report Series	First introduced in 2022, provides an overview of global solar progress, investment trends, challenges, and technological advancements.
High-Level Conference	Held alongside the 7th ISA Assembly. Co-organized with India's Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, the Asian Development Bank, and the International Solar Energy Society.





Summary/Static	Details
Conference Objectives	Drive actionable change in solar technology and policy for a clean energy transition. Focus on emerging technologies, storage, and the role of solar in socio-economic development.
About ISA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Founded: December 6, 2017, headquartered in India. - Mission: \$1 trillion solar investment by 2030, promoting affordable solar. - Partnerships: MDBs, DFIs, private/public sector collaborations to aid LDCs and SIDS. - Initiatives: Policy support, investment mobilization, cost reduction, training, and data access for stakeholders.

ACQUISITION & MERGERS

- **DPIIT has approved the ₹10,000-crore acquisition** of Reliance Capital (RCAP) by IndusInd International Holdings (IIHL), backed by the Hinduja Group. This acquisition helps resolve RCAP's ₹40,000-crore liabilities and moves the troubled financial entity closer to finalizing the deal.
- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has approved **Alphabet Inc.'s subsidiary, Shoreline International Holdings LLC**, to acquire a stake in **Walmart-owned Flipkart**. This follows **Flipkart's May 2024 funding round**, where **Google** invested **\$350 million** of the **\$1 billion** raised. Additionally, CCI approved **MUFG Bank Ltd.'s** acquisition of an additional stake in **DMI Finance**, raising MUFG's shareholding to **20%**.

List/Indexes (Ranks & Reports) on October 2024

- India has witnessed **significant employment growth** over the years. With employment increasing by nearly **36%**, **adding around 17 million jobs during 2016-17 and 2022-23**, India's economic trajectory demonstrates sustained job creation across key sectors. With a robust democracy, dynamic economy, and a culture that celebrates unity in diversity, India's journey toward becoming a global powerhouse continues to inspire the world.
- **The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) has released its 2024 Living Planet Report**, revealing a stark and alarming decline in global wildlife populations. According to the report, the average size of monitored wildlife populations has **plummeted by 73% since 1970**, underscoring the urgent need for concerted efforts to address biodiversity loss. This assessment, **based on nearly 35,000 wildlife populations and 5,495 species across various ecosystems**.
- A recent survey by the **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** highlights a remarkable **increase in the average monthly income** of rural households, which rose by 57.6% over the past five years. The second **'All India Rural Financial Inclusion Survey (NAFIS) 2021-22'** reports that the average **monthly income grew from ₹8,059 in 2016-17 to ₹12,698 in 2021-22**, indicating a **compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 9.5%**.
- The **Economic Freedom of the World: 2024 Annual Report** evaluates the extent to which individuals in **165 jurisdictions** can make their own economic choices. According to the latest data from 2022, the top three most economically free regions are **Hong Kong (1st), Singapore (2nd), and Switzerland (3rd)**. The report indicates a global decline in economic freedom over the past three years, reversing a trend of improvement that lasted nearly two decades. Also **Japan: 11th, Germany: 16th, Korea: 32nd, France: 36th, Italy:**

51st, Mexico: 65th, India: 84th, Brazil: 85th, China: 104th, Russia: 119th.

- Shillong has emerged as the most popular destination for **Indian travellers in 2025**, as revealed by Skyscanner's **"Travel Trends Report"** released on Wednesday. Meghalaya's capital topped the list, surpassing **Baku (Azerbaijan) and Langkawi (Malaysia)**, showing a strong interest among Indians for unique and immersive experiences.
- The **World Justice Project (WJP) Rule of Law Index 2024** ranks **India 79th among 142 countries**, highlighting a continued global decline in the rule of law, with 59% of surveyed nations experiencing downturns for the sixth year in a row. **Denmark, Norway, and Finland** top the list with scores of 0.87, 0.86, and 0.84, respectively, followed by Sweden and Germany. Other high-ranking countries include the **Netherlands, New Zealand, Canada, Australia, and Singapore**, all reflecting stronger rule-of-law indicators compared to the global average.

List/Indexes (Ranks & Reports) on September 2024

- **Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Arunachal Pradesh** are among the least literate states, facing challenges such as inadequate infrastructure, socio-economic issues, and geographical barriers. Understanding these challenges is essential for crafting effective solutions to enhance education and foster equitable development throughout the country.
- The release of the **TIME100 Most Influential People in AI 2024 List** has once again highlighted India's significant contributions to the rapidly evolving field of artificial intelligence. Leading the pack of Indian influencers is **Sundar Pichai**, the CEO of Google and Alphabet.





- TIME Magazine's 'TIME100 Most Influential People in AI 2024' list celebrates **15 Indian or Indian-origin individuals**, showcasing their contributions to the AI landscape. Key figures include Sundar Pichai (CEO, Google), Satya Nadella (CEO, Microsoft), Ashwini Vaishnaw (Indian Information Technology Minister), Nandan Nilekani (Infosys co-founder), and Bollywood actor Anil Kapoor. Kapoor's inclusion follows his legal victory in 2023, protecting his image from unauthorized AI use.
- The Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, has been ranked No. 1 globally for Networking in LinkedIn's Global MBA Ranking 2024, while securing the **51st position among the top 100 MBA programmes worldwide**.
- India has overtaken China in the Morgan Stanley Capital International (MSCI) **Emerging Markets Investable Market Index (EM IMI)** with a **weightage of 22.27%**, surpassing China's 21.58%. This shift reflects India's strong market performance and favorable macroeconomic conditions, contrasted with China's economic challenges.
- As Indians roam all around the world, recent data came out as **Sri Lanka** is also one of the top travel destinations for **Indians in 2024**. India maintained the top spot for **Sri Lanka in the first 8 months of this year**.
- In a new survey which is called "Best countries for 2024" it is found that Switzerland was crowned as the best country in the world. Switzerland achieved this fate in the third year successively. This survey has included 89 countries for the results.
- **Cristiano Ronaldo**, the football icon, has once again proven his unparalleled global appeal by achieving a remarkable milestone in the world of social media. His ability to captivate audiences extends far beyond the football pitch, making him a beloved figure even among those who don't actively follow the sport.
- **India has jumped to Tier 1** in the **Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) 2024**, released by the **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**, when it comes to role-modeling as part of the country's cybersecurity commitments and resulting impacts.
- **Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM)**, authored by **EAC-PM member Sanjeev Sanyal**, highlights the relative economic performance of Indian states from 1960-61 to 2023-24. Titled "**Relative Economic Performance of Indian States: 1960-61 to 2023-24**," the paper reveals that West Bengal, once holding the third-largest share of the **national GDP at 10.5% in 1960-61**, has seen a consistent decline, now accounting for only **5.6% of India's GDP in 2023-24**. The report notes that maritime states have generally outperformed others, with the exception of West Bengal.
- In a remarkable achievement for the nation's digital landscape, **India has secured Tier 1 status** in the **Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) 2024**, published by the

International Telecommunication Union (ITU). This prestigious recognition places India among the world's top cybersecurity performers, showcasing the country's commitment to robust digital safety practices on a global scale.

- The **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** recently released its **Mutual Evaluation Report on India**, following an on-site assessment in November 2023. India, which became a FATF member in 2020, was placed in the "**regular follow-up**" category, which is viewed positively given prior objections from some developed countries. The FATF identified key areas for improvement, including the prosecution of money laundering (ML) and terror financing (TF) cases, the protection of the non-profit sector from terrorist abuse, and the implementation of preventive measures.
- The IMD's recent **World Talent Ranking 2024** shows that **Switzerland ranks first**, followed by Singapore; **India finds itself ranked 58th globally**, with a talent score of **40.47**. The IMD World Talent Ranking 2024 shows the **overall ranking for 67 economies**. The economies are ranked from the most to the least competitive, and the change from the Previous year's rankings are also shown.

List/Indexes (Ranks & Reports) on August 2024

- Union Minister for Education **Shri Dharmendra Pradhan** on August 12, released the **India Rankings 2024**, which implements the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) drafted for this purpose by the Ministry of Education in 2015.
- According to the **latest data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, net foreign direct investment (FDI) in **India surged to \$6.9 billion** during the **April-June quarter of FY25**, compared to \$4.7 billion in the same period last year.
- **Mumbai and Delhi** are at the second and third positions, respectively, among **44 cities globally** in annual price rise of prime residential properties during the June quarter, Knight Frank said in a report.
- The **Hurun India Rich List 2024** has unveiled a significant shift in the landscape of wealth distribution across Asia, with **Mumbai** emerging as the new "**billionaire capital of Asia**".

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List/Indexes (Ranks & Reports) on July 2024

- The **Fauna of India Checklist Portal** is the first comprehensive document on the faunal species reported from India. **India** has become the **first country** in the world to prepare a checklist of its entire **fauna**, covering **104,561 species**. The '**Fauna of India Checklist Portal**' was launched on the occasion of the 109th Foundation Day of the **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) in Kolkata** on Sunday by **Union environment minister Bhupender Yadav**.
- **India ranks fifth in Generative AI (GenAI)** innovations, trailing behind China, the US, Republic of Korea, and Japan. Despite India's position, the country has shown the highest annual growth rate in GenAI patent publications, with significant potential for economic impact.
- India's population is projected to peak at **1.7 billion in the early 2060s** before declining by **12%**, as predicted by the **United Nations' World Population Prospects 2024** report. Despite the decline, India will remain the world's most populous country throughout the 21st century.
- A recent study by Kantar reveals that **Google, Tata Motors, Amazon, Jio, and Apple** are ranked as the '**most inclusive brands in India**'. The Kantar Brand Inclusion Index 2024 highlights significant issues of discrimination and the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) for Indian consumers.
- India should set an ambitious target of achieving **\$500 billion in electronics manufacturing by 2030**, as stated in a recent **NITI Aayog report**. This goal includes \$350 billion from finished goods manufacturing and \$150 billion from component manufacturing. Currently, India's electronics production totals \$101 billion, with \$86 billion from finished goods and \$15 billion from components. The report, titled "**Electronics: Powering India's Participation in Global Value Chains**," also forecasts that India's electronics exports could reach \$240 billion, with domestic value addition expected to surpass 35%.
- India has **maintained its 124th position** in the latest FIFA men's rankings released. This comes as a small relief for the success-starved nation, which has been experiencing a downward trend in recent months.
- In a recent report by the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**, India has made significant strides in increasing its **forest area, gaining 266,000 hectares annually from 2010 to 2020**.
- The **data on Employment and Unemployment** is collected through **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)** which is conducted by the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** since 2017-18.

List/Indexes (Ranks & Reports) on June 2024

- The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations released **The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2024**, its flagship report providing a comprehensive analysis of the global and regional status and trends in fisheries and aquaculture. It shows, for the first time in 2022, that aquaculture production exceeded fisheries.
- **Infosys**, a leading information technology company, has secured its position among the **100 most valuable brands in the world** for the third consecutive year. This recognition comes from Kantar, a prominent marketing data and analytics business, further solidifying Infosys' reputation as a global brand powerhouse.
- The **Visakhapatnam Port Authority (VPA)** has secured the **18th position** in the World Bank's Container Port Performance Index (CPPI), marking a significant milestone for India's maritime industry. This achievement underscores the exemplary efforts of Terminal Operator M/s. Visakha Container Terminal Pvt. Ltd. (VCTPL) in enhancing operational efficiency and service delivery.
- Mumbai and Delhi have emerged as top performers in the global luxury real estate market, according to Knight Frank's recent report, "**Prime Global Cities Index January-March 2024**". Both cities recorded significant increases in house prices, positioning them among the top five global cities for prime residential price growth.
- In **Mercer's 2024 Cost of Living Survey** released on June 17, Mumbai solidifies its position as **India's most expensive city** for expatriates, climbing to **136th globally and 21st in Asia**. New Delhi follows at 30th within Asia, showcasing a notable shift in cost dynamics across Indian cities. Despite economic challenges, India remains resilient, offering affordability advantages for global talent recruitment.
- India has achieved significant milestones in its domestic aviation sector over the past decade, emerging as the **world's third-largest market for domestic airlines by April 2024**. This marks a remarkable ascent from its fifth position ten years ago, driven by robust growth and strategic developments under **Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership**.
- According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), foreign direct investment (FDI) to India in 2023 decreased by **43% compared to 2022**, dropping **India's rank to 15th among global FDI recipients**. This decline mirrors a global trend where overall FDI fell by 2%.





Books & Authors

Books & Authors of December 2024

Book Name	Author	Key Notes
Dalai Lama's Secret to Happiness	Dr. Dinesh Shahra	The event celebrated Tibetan culture, spirituality, and the teachings of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, with attendees including scholars, monks, and dignitaries. The library is a key institution for preserving Tibetan culture.

Books & Authors of November 2024

Book Name	Author	Key Notes
Maa-Mother'	Dr. Davendra Kumar Dhodawat	Law and Justice Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal launched the book 'Maa-Mother' in New Delhi, with Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan and West Bengal Governor Dr. C.V. Anand Bose in attendance. The book, centered on the theme of motherhood, explores the subject through poetry.
Why Bharat Matters	S. Jaishankar	External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar launched his new book, Why Bharat Matters, at the Mohammed Bin Rashid Library in Dubai, UAE
Friends – India's Closest Strategic Partners	Prof. Sreeram Chaulia's	Friends – India's Closest Strategic Partners, dives into the intricate world of India's foreign relations, offering a unique perspective on India's closest allies and strategic partners.
Speaking with Nature: The Origins of Indian Environmentalism	Ramachandra Guha	Speaking with Nature: The Origins of Indian Environmentalism
Beyond the Higgs Boson: The W Boson and Dr. Ashutosh Kotwal's Quest for the Unknown	Manik Kotwal	The book chronicles the journey of Dr. Ashutosh Kotwal, an Indian physicist pivotal in Higgs boson and W boson research, offering a deeply personal perspective on his groundbreaking achievements.
My Beloved Life	Amitava Kumar	Amitava Kumar's My Beloved Life tells the story of Jadunath "Jadu" Kunwar from a small village in Bihar, and his daughter Jugnu, as they navigate love, loss, and personal growth in a changing India.

Books & Authors of October 2024

Name of Book	Author
"Lara: The England Chronicles"	Brian Lara and Co- Authored- Phil Walker
War	Bob Woodward
Mountain Mammals of the World	M.K. Ranjitsinh
Thank You, Gandhi	Krishna Kumar
Mother Mary Comes to Me	Arundhati Roy
Mountain Mammals of the World	M.K. Ranjitsinh

Books & Authors of September 2024

Name of Book	Author
From Oil to Lithium: Navigating the Future of Energy	Kuldeep Gupta
Sri Rama in Tamilagam – An Inseparable Bond	Dr. D.K. Hari and Dr. D.K. Hema Hari
Khaki Mein Sthitapragya	Anil Raturi





Books & Authors of August 2024

Name of Book	Author
India@100: Envisioning Tomorrow's Economic Powerhouse	Prof. K V Subramanian
'75 Great Revolutionaries of India	MP Bhim Singh
Modi's Governance Triumph: Reshaping India's Path to Prosperity	Tarun Chugh
The Scientist Entrepreneur: Empowering Millions of Women	Dr. Kalpana Sankar's

Books & Authors of July 2024

Name of Book	Author
Venkaiah Naidu: Life in Service	S Nagesh Kumar
Celebrating Bharat: The Mission and Message of Shri M Venkaiah Naidu	Dr I.V. Subba Rao
Mahaneta: Life and Journey of Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu	Sanjay Kishore
The Prisoner of Bhopal	Tim Walker
Power Within: The Leadership Legacy of Narendra Modi	Dr. R Balasubramaniam
Manoj Bajpayee: The Definitive Biography	Piyush Pandey

Books & Authors of June 2024

Name of Book	Author
Source Code: My Beginnings	Bill Gates
A Fly on the RBI Wall: An Insider's View of the Central Bank	Alpana Killawala
I Have the Streets: A Kutti Cricket Story	R. Ashwin and Sidharth Monga
Ed Finds a Home	Alia Bhatt

Sports Current Affairs

Sports Current Affairs of December 2024

CRICKET

- **Bangladesh U-19** defended their **Asia Cup** title with a **59-run victory** over **India** in the final. Bangladesh set a target of **199 runs**, and India was bowled out for **139** in **35.2 overs**. Key performances from **Mohammad Shihab James**, **Rizan Hossan**, and **Azizul Hakim** helped Bangladesh post a strong total, while **Hakim**, **Iqbal Hossain Emon**, and **Rizan Hossan** took three wickets each to dismantle India's batting.
- Pakistan's **Haris Rauf** and England's **Danni Wyatt-Hodge** were named **ICC Players of the Month** for November 2024. Rauf's standout bowling helped Pakistan secure their first ODI series win in Australia since 2002, while Wyatt-Hodge's explosive batting led England to a T20I series victory over South Africa.
- **Shaheen Shah Afridi** has made history as the youngest bowler to take **100 wickets** in all three formats of cricket. He achieved this milestone during the first **T20I** against **South Africa**, becoming the first **Pakistani** bowler to do so. Afridi

claimed **3 wickets for 22 runs** in the match, joining a prestigious group of bowlers like **Lasith Malinga**, **Shakib Al Hasan**, and **Tim Southee**.

- **Imad Wasim**, Pakistan's star **all-rounder**, announced his retirement from **international cricket** after a **nine-year** career. The **35-year-old** played a crucial role in Pakistan's **2017 Champions Trophy** win. While retiring from international cricket, Imad plans to continue playing in **domestic** and **franchise cricket**.

BADMINTON & TENNIS

- At the **Syed Modi International Super 300** (December 2024) in **Lucknow**, **PV Sindhu** claimed her **3rd title**, defeating **Luo Yu Wu** of China (21-14, 21-16). **Lakshya Sen** won his **first Syed Modi title** in men's singles, beating **Jia Heng Jason Teh** of Singapore (21-6, 21-7). **Treesa Jolly** and **Gayatri Gopichand** made history as the **first Indian women's doubles pair** to win the title. The event was held at the **Babu Banarasi Das Academy** in **Uttar Pradesh**.





ATHLETIC & FOOTBALL

- FIFA has announced that **Spain, Portugal, and Morocco** will jointly host the **2030 Men's Football World Cup**, with additional matches in **Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay** to mark the tournament's centenary. **Saudi Arabia** will host the **2034 World Cup**. The decisions were made during an Extraordinary FIFA Congress meeting, with mixed reactions regarding the **bidding process**.

Hockey

- India's men's junior hockey team clinched their **fifth Junior Asia Cup** title with a **5-3 victory** over **Pakistan** on December 4, 2024, in **Muscat**. This win marked their **third consecutive championship** (2015, 2023, 2024). **Araijeet Singh Hundal** was the hero, scoring **four goals** to secure the historic triumph.

OTHER SPORTS NEWS

- **Arjun Erigaisi** has made history by becoming only the second **Indian** after **Viswanathan Anand** to breach the **2800 ELO rating** in classical chess, ranking **4th globally** with a rating of **2801**. This achievement follows his strong performance in **2024**, including an individual gold and team title at the **45th Chess Olympiad**. Erigaisi now joins the elite group, ranking just below **Magnus Carlsen** (2831) and **Fabiano Caruana** (2805).
- **Pavan Kampelli** made history by winning **India's first-ever bronze medal** in **eFootball** at the **2024 Asian Esports Games** in **Bangkok**. Known as **'Mr Tomboy'**, Pavan's exceptional skill marked a significant milestone in **India's esports journey**.
- **Lando Norris** won the **Abu Dhabi Grand Prix**, ending **McLaren's 26-year wait** for a **constructors' championship**, last achieved in **1998**. The race, filled with incidents and penalties, overshadowed a tough race for other drivers like **Max Verstappen** and **Lewis Hamilton**, who finished **fourth** in his final race for **Mercedes**.
- **Aarit Kapil**, a **nine-year-old chess prodigy** from Delhi, made history by becoming the **youngest Indian** to defeat a **chess Grandmaster**. In the **KIIT International Open Tournament**, he won against **Raset Ziatdinov**, a 66-year-old Grandmaster from the US. At just **9 years, 2 months, and 18 days**, Aarit set a **national record** and became the **third-youngest player** globally to achieve this under **classical time control**.
- **Kush Maini** made history as the **first Indian** to win the **FIA F2 Constructors' World Championship** with **Invicta Racing**. This achievement follows his milestone as the first Indian to claim an **F2 pole position**. Despite challenges, Maini's **consistency** and key contributions helped Invicta Racing secure the title, showcasing his **talent** and **resilience**.

- Japan won the **20th Asian Women's Handball Championship** by defeating **South Korea** 25-24, claiming their second-ever title. This victory ended South Korea's seven-title streak. In the **fifth-place match**, **China** defeated **India** 41-30, with **Bhawana** scoring 9 goals for India. **Kazakhstan** secured third place, defeating **Iran** 28-22, while **Hong Kong** won the **seventh-place match** against **Singapore** 33-18.
- The **Khelo India Winter Games 2025** will showcase winter sports in **Ladakh** (ice events, Jan 23-27) and **Jammu & Kashmir** (snow events, Feb 22-25). This premier event aims to **promote winter sports**, identify young talent, and serve as a platform for athletes, particularly from remote **Himalayan regions**.
- **Dommaraju Gukesh** became the **youngest chess world champion** at 18, defeating **Ding Liren** in the **FIDE World Chess Championship 2024** in **Singapore**. The 14-round event, with a **\$2.5 million** prize fund, ended with a score of **7.5-6.5** in Gukesh's favor, surpassing **Garry Kasparov's** record. His victory marks a milestone in chess history, showcasing his **dedication** and **talent**.

Sports Current Affairs of November 2024

CRICKET

- **Veteran Australian wicketkeeper-batter Matthew Wade** has officially retired from international cricket after an illustrious 13-year career, leaving a lasting impact on the sport. Known for his fighting spirit, Wade's journey from a hard-hitting batter to a strategic finisher has been nothing short of inspiring.
- **Ravindra Jadeja** achieved a significant milestone by becoming the **fifth-highest wicket-taker** for India in Test cricket. This feat was accomplished on the first day of the third Test match against New Zealand in Mumbai, where Jadeja surpassed Ishant Sharma's wicket tally. Jadeja now stands among India's legendary bowlers, with only four players ahead of him. Anil Kumble, Ravichandran Ashwin, Kapil Dev, Harbhajan Singh.
- **Tim Southee, New Zealand's all-time leading wicket-taker**, has announced his decision to **retire from international cricket** after the completion of the current ICC World Test Championship campaign.
- Indian wicketkeeper-batter **Wriddhiman Saha** has announced his retirement from all formats of cricket, bringing an end to his nearly two-decade-long career. He revealed that the ongoing Ranji Trophy season would be his last.
- Afghanistan's iconic all-rounder, **Mohammad Nabi**, will bring his illustrious **ODI career** to a close following the **2025 ICC Champions Trophy** in Pakistan.





- India's legendary cricketer **Jhulan Goswami** will be honored with a **stand named after her** at the **Eden Gardens, Kolkata**, by the **Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB)**, making her the **first woman cricketer** to receive such recognition. The unveiling will occur on **January 22, 2025**, during the **India-England T20I match**, celebrating her **extraordinary achievements** and contributions to **women's cricket**.
- On **22nd November**, **Jay Shah**, ICC president-elect and chief of the **BCCI** and **ACC**, announced a historic partnership between the **Asian Cricket Council (ACC)** and **Sony Sports Networks**. The deal, effective from **2024 to 2031**, ensures exclusive broadcasting of all **ACC tournaments** on **Sony Sports**, significantly enhancing cricket's visibility in the region.
- **Rishabh Pant** made history by becoming the **costliest player** in IPL history, fetching ₹27 crore from **Lucknow Super Giants (LSG)**, despite mixed white-ball performances. His move was influenced by uncertainty over his **captaincy** at **Delhi Capitals**. **Shreyas Iyer** followed closely with ₹26.75 crore, while **Venkatesh Iyer** was a surprise, returning to **Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR)** for ₹23.75 crore, showcasing the franchise's faith in him.
- **Vaibhav Suryavanshi**, a 13-year-old cricketer from **Bihar**, made history by becoming the youngest player ever signed at an IPL auction. On **Day 2 of the IPL 2025 Mega Auction in Jeddah**, **Rajasthan Royals** secured him for ₹1.10 crore, outbidding **Delhi Capitals** in a fierce bidding war. This remarkable achievement has positioned Suryavanshi as a promising **rising star** in Indian cricket.
- **Siddarth Kaul**, a 34-year-old fast bowler, announced his retirement from Indian cricket after a 17-year career. Kaul, who played six international matches (3 ODIs, 3 T20Is), was part of India's **Under-19 World Cup winning team** in 2008 and had **IPL success** with **Sunrisers Hyderabad**, where he was the joint-highest wicket-taker in 2018. He intends to explore **opportunities overseas** after achieving his childhood dream of representing India.
- On **November 25, 2024**, **India** achieved a historic **295-run victory** over **Australia** in the **first Test** of the **Border-Gavaskar Trophy** at **Optus Stadium, Perth**. This stunning win gave India a **1-0 lead** in the series and shattered a **47-year-old record**, marking India's **biggest victory against Australia** in Australia in terms of runs, surpassing the previous record of **222 runs** set in **Melbourne** in 1977.

BADMINTON & TENNIS

- **Prajnesh Gunneswaran**, the Indian tennis star who won a **bronze medal in singles** at the **2018 Jakarta Asian Games**, announced his **retirement from professional tennis**.

- **Harshit Mahimkar** and **Prisha Shah** dominated the **Maharashtra State Open Badminton Tournament 2024**, winning the **men's** and **women's singles** titles, as well as the **U-17 boys'** and **girls' singles** crowns. Held at the **Willingdon Sports Club**, their performances showcased exceptional skill, harking back to previous triumphs in Maharashtra's badminton circuit and setting a high standard for future competitors.
- **Rafael Nadal**, one of tennis's greatest players, bid farewell to professional tennis at the **2024 Davis Cup** in **Málaga, Spain**. His final match ended in a **6-4, 6-4 loss** to **Botic Van de Zandschulp** of the Netherlands, marking the end of an extraordinary career. With **22 Grand Slam titles**, **four Davis Cup victories**, and **two Olympic golds**, Nadal leaves behind an **unmatched legacy** defined by **grit**, **humility**, and incredible prowess on the court.
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ARCHERY & SHOOTING

- At the **GT Open 2024** in **Luxembourg**, India's **Jyothi Surekha Vennam** won the **gold** in women's compound archery, defeating **Sarah Prieels** of Belgium with a **147-145** victory. In the men's competition, **Abhishek Verma**, who shot a perfect **600** in qualifications, claimed **silver** after a shoot-off loss to **Mike Schlosser**.

ATHLETIC & FOOTBALL

- FIFA has unveiled the **2025 Club World Cup** trophy, designed in collaboration with **Tiffany & Co**. The golden trophy features a **24-carat gold-plated finish** with intricate engravings, drawing inspiration from **NASA's Voyager missions**, the **periodic table**, and **astronomical maps**. Its design symbolizes the future of football and global unity, with engravings in 13 languages, **Braille**, and a **world map**.
- **Italy** won its **fifth Billie Jean King Cup** title on **November 20, 2024**, defeating **Slovakia 2-0** in the final in **Malaga, Spain**. **Jasmine Paolini** secured the victory with a dominant **6-2, 6-1** win over **Rebecca Sramkova**, following **Lucia Bronzetti's 6-2, 6-4** triumph against **Viktoria Hrucakova**.
- The **40th** edition of the **Governor's Gold Cup International Football Tournament** concluded on **November 24, 2024**, at **Paljor Stadium** in **Gangtok**, with **NorthEast United FC** winning in a dramatic **4-3 penalty shootout** over **Gangtok Himalayan SC**.





Hockey

- **Odisha** triumphed in a spectacular fashion at the **14th Hockey India Senior National Championship**, defeating **two-time champions Haryana 5-1** in the final at the **SDAT-Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium** in **Chennai**. This historic victory secured Odisha's **first-ever gold medal** in the tournament, with **Shilanand Lakra** delivering an outstanding **hat-trick**, making a pivotal contribution to the win.
- India's **Women's Hockey Team** defended their title at the **Women's Asian Champions Trophy**, defeating **China 1-0** in the final. **Deepika's reverse-hit goal** in the 31st minute secured India's **third ACT title** and back-to-back championships, highlighting their dominance alongside **South Korea**.

FIH Hockey Stars Awards 2024

- The FIH Hockey Star Awards 2024 ceremony, which took place on November 8, 2024, in Muscat, Oman, celebrated the top performers in international hockey. Indian hockey team captain Harmanpreet Singh was named the **Men's Player of the Year**, while legendary goalkeeper PR Sreejesh was awarded the **Men's Goalkeeper of the Year**. The awards are determined by a voting process that includes national team captains, coaches, experts, and fans, as well as media representation.

FIH Hockey Star Awards 2024 – Full List of Winners

Below is the complete list of winners at the FIH Hockey Star Awards 2024:

Award Category	Winner	Country
Men's Player of the Year	Harmanpreet Singh	India
Women's Player of the Year	Yibbi Jansen	Netherlands
Men's Goalkeeper of the Year	PR Sreejesh	India
Women's Goalkeeper of the Year	Ye Jiao	China
Men's Rising Star of the Year	Sufyan Khan	Pakistan
Women's Rising Star of the Year	Zoe Diaz	Argentina
Men's Coach of the Year	Jeroen Delmee	Netherlands
Women's Coach of the Year	Alyson Annan	China
Men's Umpire of the Year	Steve Rogers	Australia
Women's Umpire of the Year	Sarah Wilson	Scotland

OTHER SPORTS NEWS

- **Chirag Chikkara** made history by becoming **only the third Indian wrestler to win the Under-23 World Championship**.
- India achieved a commendable **runner-up position** in the overall team standings at the Asian Arm Wrestling Cup 2024, which took place at the Aurika Skycity Hotel in Mumbai. The Indian team **finished second in the medal tally, only behind Kazakhstan**, the top-ranking nation in the world of arm wrestling.
- Pankaj Advani clinched his 28th world title by defeating England's Robert Hall 4-2 at the IBSF World Billiards Championship in Doha on November 9, 2024. This victory marked his seventh consecutive World Billiards Championship win.
- **GM Aravindh Chithambaram** made a remarkable late surge in the final rounds, winning the last two classical games to secure the **Chennai Grand Masters 2024 title**.
- Union Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, launched a nationwide initiative to combat doping in sports, encouraging athletes, coaches, and the sporting community to use the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) India's 'Know Your Medicine (KYM)' app.
- India has submitted a Letter of Intent to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to host the 2036 Olympic and Paralympic Games, marking a major step toward fulfilling Prime Minister Modi's vision of hosting the prestigious event for the first time.
- **Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd)**, the **Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh**, inaugurated the much-awaited **4th LG Cup Horse Polo-2024 Tournament** at the newly constructed **Polo Stadium at Goshan, Drass**. This event, organized by the **Department of Youth Services and Sports, UT Ladakh**.
- India's celebrated badminton star and **Olympic medallist, PV Sindhu, laid the foundation stone** for the **PV Sindhu Centre for Badminton and Sports Excellence** on November 7, in **Chinna Gadili village on the outskirts of Visakhapatnam**.
- Indian professional boxer **Mandeep Jangra** claimed the World Boxing Federation's super featherweight world title after defeating Britain's Conor McIntosh in an intense match in the Cayman Islands.
- Max Verstappen's incredible victory at the Brazil Grand Prix has captivated the Formula 1 world. Starting from 17th place, Verstappen showcased remarkable skill and resilience, storming to the front despite challenging rain-soaked conditions at the Interlagos circuit in Sao Paulo.
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- Three-year-old Anish Sarkar from Kolkata has become the world's youngest-rated chess player, achieving an impressive FIDE rating of 1555.
- **Arjun Erigaisi** made a significant leap in the chess world by securing the world No. 2 spot in live ratings on 7th November.
- The **4th National Finswimming Championship 2024** concluded in New Delhi with impressive performances from 1500 participants across 26 states and union territories. **West Bengal** emerged as the **team champions** with 151 medals (67 gold, 43 silver, 41 bronze), followed by **Karnataka** (50 medals) and **Uttarakhand** (21 medals). Organized by the **Underwater Sports Federation of India (USFI)**, the event highlighted India's growing success in **finswimming**.
- India will host the inaugural **Kho Kho World Cup** from **January 13 to 19, 2025**, at the **Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium** in **New Delhi**. This historic event aims to elevate **Kho Kho**, one of India's cherished indigenous games, to the global stage. Supported by the **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** and the **Kho Kho Federation of India (KKFI)**, the tournament is set to be a major milestone in promoting **traditional sports**.
- **Alistair Brownlee**, a **double Olympic champion** and pivotal figure in British triathlon, has announced his **retirement** at **36**. Renowned for his iconic victories in **London 2012** and **Rio 2016**, he has inspired a new generation, including current Olympic champion **Alex Yee**, leaving a lasting legacy in the sport.
- **Reetika Hooda** made history by winning the **gold medal** in the **women's 76kg** category at the **World Military Championships**, becoming the second **Indian woman** to achieve this feat. This victory follows **Jyoti Sihag's** gold in the **55kg** category, marking a significant debut for **India's women's wrestling contingent** at the prestigious event.
- **Emma McKeon**, Australia's most decorated Olympian, announced her retirement on **November 25, 2024**, at age 30. She leaves a remarkable legacy with **14 Olympic medals—six golds, three silvers, and five bronzes—**earned across **three Olympics: Rio 2016, Tokyo 2020, and Paris 2024**. McKeon's **historic seven-medal performance** at **Tokyo 2020** remains the most by a female swimmer at a single Games and tied for the most by any female athlete in one Olympics.
- The **National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA)** has imposed a **four-year suspension** on Olympic bronze medallist **Bajrang Punia** for violating the **anti-doping code**. The suspension follows his refusal to provide a **urine sample** during **selection trials** on **March 10, 2024**. This decision extends the **provisional suspension** from April 2024, barring him from **competitive wrestling** and **coaching opportunities abroad**.

- **Divith Reddy**, an **eight-year-old** from **Hyderabad**, won the **Under-8 World Cadets Chess Championship**, securing **9/11 points** and the **gold medal** on tie-break over fellow Indian **Sattwik Swain**, who earned silver. **Ziming Guo** of **China** took the bronze with 9/11 points. This victory highlights **India's growing dominance** in junior chess.
- **Max Verstappen** secured his **fourth consecutive Drivers' Championship title** despite finishing **fifth** in the **2024 Las Vegas Grand Prix**. The race, held on **November 24** in the **United States**, saw **George Russell** of **Mercedes** emerge victorious, with **Lewis Hamilton** finishing second. Verstappen's dominance continued, as his commanding lead in the points table ensured his historic fourth title, making him the **sixth driver** in history to achieve this feat.

Sports Current Affairs of October 2024

Cricket {National Game of Australia, Bermuda, England, Jamaica No. of Players: 11

Important Terms associated: Arm ball, Beamer, Bottom hand, Bouncer, Cameo, Carrom ball, Chinaman, Flick, Free hit, Glance, Googly, Hat-trick, Hit wicket, Leg bye, Nelson, Night watchman, Pinch hitter, Sweep, Upper Cut.}

- To expand the cricketing infrastructure, **BCCI** (Board of Control for Cricket In India) inaugurated the new state of art facilities which are called the **Centre Of Excellence** in the outskirts of the Bengaluru city. Which is also called **New National Cricket Academy**.
- The ongoing India vs Bangladesh 2 test match series, **Ravindra Jadeja** became the first Indian left arm spinner to take **300 test wickets** in Test cricket. The all rounder became the second fastest player who scored 3000 test runs and scalped 300 test wickets. It is a huge achievement for him and he joins the elite list in the history of cricket.
- **Virat Kohli completed 27000 international runs** and became the fastest cricketer to reach that milestone and broke the record of Sachin Tendulkar who earlier held the record. Virat achieved this feat against Bangladesh in the 2nd test match in Kanpur.
- **Sri Lanka spinner Praveen Jayawickrama** has been **banned** from all forms of cricket for **one year**, with the last six months suspended, for breaching the sport's anti-corruption code, as per International Cricket Council (ICC). According to ICC charges related to the Sri Lanka Premier League and International Cricket.
- **Irani cup** title finally returning to **Mumbai after the drought of 27 years**. Ajinkya Rahane led reigning Ranji champion team has drawn the match after taking the first innings lead against the Rest of India in a 5 day match. In which they stood victorious due to courtesy of the first innings lead.





- **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has revealed the **Players of the Month for September 2024**, honoring **Sri Lanka's Kamindu Mendis** and **England's Tammy Beaumont** for their outstanding performances in international cricket. Both players have earned this prestigious recognition for the **second time**, reflecting their consistency and dominance on the global cricketing stage.
- In a historic recognition, former **Indian cricketer Neetu David**, along with **England's Alastair Cook** and **South Africa's AB de Villiers**, has been inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame for 2024.
- **Sourav Ganguly**, the former Indian cricket captain and ex-BCCI President, has been named the **Director of Cricket for JSW Sports**. In this role, Ganguly will oversee all cricketing operations for the organization.
- In a remarkable display of resilience and skill, **Virat Kohli** crossed the **prestigious 9000 Test runs** milestone during India's first Test against New Zealand at the **M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru**.
- Cricket, one of the most popular sports globally, is set to make a comeback at the **Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games (LA28)**, pending approval by the **International Olympic Committee (IOC)**. This inclusion marks the sport's second appearance at the Olympic Games, following its debut in **Paris 1900**.
- **New Zealand Women's Team** lift the **ICC T20 World Cup After 23 Years** at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium. They defeated the South African team with 32 runs. South Africa won the toss and opted to Bowl first. The New Zealand Team set the target of 158-5 after completing 20 overs.
- Zimbabwe's cricket team etched their name in history by posting a record-breaking total of **344/4** in a T20 International, led by **Sikandar Raza's unbeaten 133** off just 43 balls. His explosive innings, featuring 15 sixes, helped Zimbabwe achieve this landmark in the **ICC Men's T20 World Cup Africa Sub-Regional Qualifier B** match against **Gambia**.
- **Kagiso Rabada** has etched his name in cricket history by becoming the fastest bowler to reach 300 Test wickets based on balls bowled, achieving the milestone in just **11,817 deliveries**. The South African pace sensation is now among the greats, surpassing legends like **Waqar Younis (12,602 balls)** and **Dale Steyn (12,605 balls)**.
- In a spectacular performance during the second Test against New Zealand in Pune, **Ravichandran Ashwin** set a new benchmark by becoming the highest wicket-taker in the **ICC World Test Championship (WTC)**. He started the match just one wicket behind Australian spinner **Nathan Lyon**, who held the top spot with 187 wickets. However, Ashwin's brilliant bowling helped him overtake Lyon, ending the day with **189 WTC wickets**.

- In a prestigious recognition, Maria Sharapova and twins Bob and Mike Bryan were named to the **International Tennis Hall of Fame's Class of 2025**. The induction ceremony will be held on August 23 in Newport, Rhode Island, where they will be celebrated for their trailblazing achievements and contributions to tennis.
- **Veteran Australian wicketkeeper-batter Matthew Wade** has officially retired from international cricket after an illustrious 13-year career, leaving a lasting impact on the sport. Known for his fighting spirit, Wade's journey from a hard-hitting batter to a strategic finisher has been nothing short of inspiring.
- **Ravindra Jadeja** achieved a significant milestone by becoming the **fifth-highest wicket-taker** for India in Test cricket. This feat was accomplished on the first day of the third Test match against New Zealand in Mumbai, where Jadeja surpassed Ishant Sharma's wicket tally. Jadeja now stands among India's legendary bowlers, with only four players ahead of him. Anil Kumble, Ravichandran Ashwin, Kapil Dev, Harbhajan Singh.

Important Terms associated: tennis

- Two upcoming tennis giants featured in the final game of the **China Open 2024**, **Carlos Alcaraz** from Spain **beat the World No.1 Jannick Sinner** from Italy in the final game and won the title. The Spaniard has beaten the Sinner three times this year in all competitions.

Football {National Game of Brazil, Italy, Germany, Israel, Mauritius, Poland No. of Players: 11

Important Terms Associated: Back Pass, Corner Kick, Free Kick, Dribble, Futsal, Header, Kick off, Banana Kick, Toe Poke, Throw-in, Bicycle Kick}

The Indian Men's Football U-17 (Under 17) lifted the SAFF (South Asian Football Federation) Men's U-17 Championship after defeating **Bangladesh** in the final game of the tournament. The final was played at the Changlimithang Stadium in Thimphu, Bhutan. An unbeaten run throughout the tournament after winning the title is like cherry on top for Indian Football.

Awards of the tournament

- **Player of the Tournament** : Mohammed Arbash (INDIA)
- **Goal Keeper of the Tournament** : Aheibam Suraj Singh (INDIA)
- **Top Scorer of the Tournament** : Sujan Dangol (4 Goals) (NEPAL)
- **Fair Play Trophy** : BHUTAN
- **Andrés Iniesta**, The Spaniard, maestro of the game announced retirement from professional football after a long 22 years serving in the field. The player who represented the **National team of Spain and FC Barcelona**, one of the best clubs in the world.





- **Ngangom Bala Devi**, born on February 2, 1990, has etched her name in **Indian football history** by becoming the **first Indian woman to score 50 international goals**. Playing as a forward for the Manipur Police and the Indian national team, Devi's journey reflects her dedication and significant contributions to women's football in India.
- The **Indian men's football team** has made a modest advancement in the **FIFA rankings**, moving up one spot to **125th**, as per the latest update released on Thursday. This progress is attributed to their resilient performance in a recent international friendly against Vietnam, where they managed a 1-1 draw. Argentina tops the list and France ranked number 2 in the list.

Sports Events | Tournaments Current Affairs

Other Sports Current Affairs

- India's **Gulveer Singh** set a new national record en route to winning the men's 5000m gold in the Yogibo Athletics Challenge Cup of World Athletics Continental Tour at Niigata, Japan. Gulveer won the race with a time of 13:11.82 to improve upon his own national record earlier this year.
- **Kho Kho Federation of India (KKFI)** in collaboration with the **International Kho Kho Federation** revealed plans to organize the inaugural **Kho Kho World Cup** in India come 2025. This historic event marks a significant milestone in the journey of this traditional Indian sport toward global recognition.
- **Indian trio wins team Gold medal** at ISSF Junior World Championship 2024 in 25 Men's Rapid Fire Pistol event. The competition was held in Lima, Peru. The trio was **Raajwardan Patil, Mukesh Nelavalli and Harsimar Singh Rattha**.
- **Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar** unveiled the **logo and mascot** for the **Women's Asian Champions Trophy 2024**. Scheduled to take place in Rajgir from November 11 to 20, the tournament will feature the mascot named '**Gudiya**,' inspired by **Bihar's state bird, the sparrow**. The unveiling marks a significant step toward creating a vibrant atmosphere for the upcoming championship.
- **Dipa Karmakar, India's trailblazing gymnast**, who narrowly missed out on a podium finish at the Rio 2016 Olympics, has announced her retirement from the sport. Famous for performing the risky "**Produnova**" vault, often called the "**vault of death**," Karmakar leaves behind a legacy of courage and determination that redefined Indian gymnastics.
- In a remarkable display of skill and determination, ace Indian **cueist Pankaj Advani** clinched the prestigious Songhe Singapore Open title by defeating local favorite Jaden Ong 5-1 in the final held in Singapore.

- The **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** has chosen **Uttarakhand** as the host for the **38th Summer National Games**, scheduled to take place from **28th January to 14th February 2025**. This announcement marks a significant achievement for the state, as it will be hosting the prestigious event for the first time, followed by the upcoming **Winter Games**, which will be held outside **Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh** for the first time.
- The Indian men's table tennis team won a **bronze medal** at the **2024 Asian Table Tennis Championships** in **Astana, Kazakhstan**. This achievement marks their **third consecutive bronze** in this event. The women's doubles duo, **Ayhika and Sutirtha Mukherjee**, became the **first all-Indian pair** to win a medal at the Asian Championships, also securing **bronze**. They reached the semi-finals but lost to Japan's **Miwa Harimoto and Miyuu Kihara**. Overall, India concluded the championships with **three bronze medals**, including the women's team's **first medal since 1972**. Individual performances saw early exits for former Commonwealth champion **Manika Batra** and veteran **Sharath Kamal**. India's total medal tally at the Asian Championships now stands at **eight bronze medals**.
- In a significant achievement for Indian shooting sports, the **International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF)** announced that India will host the **ISSF Junior World Cup in 2025**. **ISSF President Luciano Rossi** made this declaration during a press conference in New Delhi, where he praised India's contributions to the sport and its increasing global prominence.
- India's shooting contingent made a strong mark at the ISSF World Cup Final with **Vivaan Kapoor** securing a **silver medal in the men's trap event** and **Anant Jeet Singh Naruka** claiming a **bronze in the men's skeet competition**.
- Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB) won the **Senior Women Inter-Departmental National Hockey Championship** by defeating **Indian Oil 3-1 in the final**, held at **Major Dhyanchand National Stadium**.
- The **24th National Para-Swimming Championship** concluded with **Karnataka** emerging as the overall champion, amassing an impressive 392 points. The competition saw a fierce battle for the top spots, with Maharashtra finishing a close second with 378 points, and Rajasthan securing third place with 248 points.
- **Deepika Kumari**, a four-time Olympian from India, secured the **silver medal** in the **women's recurve event** at the **2024 Archery World Cup Final** held on **October 20, 2024**, in **Tlaxcala, Mexico**.
- **Chirag Chikkara** made history by becoming **only the third Indian wrestler to win the Under-23 World Championship**.
- India achieved a commendable **runner-up position** in the overall team standings at the Asian Arm Wrestling Cup 2024, which took place at the Aurika Skycity Hotel in Mumbai. The Indian team **finished second in the medal tally, only behind Kazakhstan**, the top-ranking nation in the world of arm wrestling.





Sports Current Affairs of September 2024

Cricket {National Game of Australia, Bermuda, England, Jamaica No. of Players: 11

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- The prestigious **Lord’s Cricket Ground in London** is set to make history by **hosting the final of the ICC World Test Championship (WTC) from June 11 to June 15, 2025**. This event marks the first time that the iconic venue, often referred to as the “Home of Cricket,” will host the climax of cricket’s most revered format.
- The **Subroto Cup International Football Tournament**, a premier inter-school football competition, celebrated its 63rd edition in 2024. Manipur’s TG English School emerged victorious with a **4-3 win** in the shootout.
- In a momentous achievement for Indian cricket, **Jasprit Bumrah** has become the **10th Indian bowler** to reach the illustrious milestone of **400 international wickets**. This feat was accomplished during the **first Test against Bangladesh** at **Chennai**, further cementing Bumrah’s status as one of India’s premier fast bowlers.
- The **Duleep Trophy** final between **India-A and India-C** concluded in dramatic fashion, with India-A emerging victorious by a margin of 132 runs. The match, which seemed destined for a draw that would have crowned India-C as champions, took a sudden turn in the closing stages, showcasing the unpredictable nature of cricket’s longer format.
- **Bangladesh’s All time great cricketer Shakib Al Hasan** is set to **retire from the Tests and modern T20 format**. Shakib made the decision public during a press conference ahead of the second India-Bangladesh Test in Kanpur.
- **Dwayne Bravo** has confirmed his **retirement from all cricket** after his final season in the CPL (Caribbean Premier League) was cut short by injury. The West Indies maestro will take up a **new role as Mentor in franchise cricket**.
- The partnership between **JK Lakshmi Cement (JKLC)** and **Indian cricket team captain Rohit Sharma** enters its **fifth consecutive year**. Known for his cricketing excellence and leadership, Sharma’s association has strengthened the brand’s image and helped JKLC connect with a wider audience. This renewed collaboration will see him featured in advertising campaigns, brand activations, and promotional activities, enhancing JKLC’s visibility across India.
- The **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** secretary **Jay Shah** is all set to replace the incumbent Greg Barclay as the new chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC).

Football {National Game of Brazil, Italy, Germany, Israel, Mauritius, Poland No. of Players: 11

Important Terms Associated: Back Pass, Corner Kick, Free Kick, Dribble, Futsal, Header, Kick off, Banana Kick, Toe Poke, Throw-in, Bicycle Kick}

- **Guwahati-based NorthEast United Football Club** etched their names in Indian football history by clinching their maiden **Durand Cup** title. In a thrilling final that went to a penalty shootout, they defeated the defending champions, **Mohun Bagan Super Giant (MBSG)**, 4-3. The match took place at the iconic Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan in Kolkata on August 31, 2024.
- The **4th Intercontinental Cup men’s football championship** concluded with a stunning victory for **Syria**, as they defeated the defending champions **India** with a decisive **3-0** score in the final round-robin match. The tournament, held from September 3 to 9, 2024, at the **GMC Balayogi Gachibowli Stadium** in **Hyderabad, Telangana**, showcased Syria’s dominance throughout the competition.

Grand Prixes

- **Oscar Piastri** of **McLaren** secured his first Formula 1 victory at the **Azerbaijan Grand Prix**, marking a significant milestone in his career. The race, held at the **Baku City Circuit**, concluded under a **virtual safety car** due to a late crash, adding an element of drama to the final moments.
- The **Singapore Grand Prix** on Sunday, September 22, 2024, witnessed a spectacular display of skill and nerve as **Lando Norris** of McLaren secured his third career victory in Formula 1. This win not only showcased Norris’s growing prowess but also injected fresh excitement into the championship battle.

Hockey

- In a historic step towards developing **sports infrastructure in Bihar**, **Hockey India** announced that the upcoming **Hockey Women’s Asian Champions Trophy 2024** will be held in **Rajgir** from **November 11 to 20**. The tournament will take place at the newly constructed Rajgir Hockey Stadium, where India will defend their title against teams from **China, Malaysia, Japan, Thailand, and Korea**.
- The **14th Hockey India Junior Men National Championship 2024** concluded with an exhilarating finale on September 19, 2024, at the **Olympian Surjit Singh Hockey Stadium** in **Jalandhar, Punjab**. This prestigious event, organized by **Hockey India**, showcased the nation’s top young talent in a fierce competition that spanned from September 9 to September 19, 2024.





**Badminton / Boxing/ Wrestling/Weightlifting
Sports Events | Tournaments Current Affairs
Other Sports Current Affairs**

- In a significant development for traditional Indian sports, **Yogasana** has been officially included as a **demonstration sport** in the upcoming **2026 Asian Games**, set to take place in **Aichi-Nagoya, Japan**. This decision marks a pivotal moment in the recognition of yoga as a competitive athletic discipline on the international stage.
- In a groundbreaking moment for Indian boxing, **Deepali Thapa** etched her name in the annals of sports history by becoming the **first-ever schoolgirl champion** at the **Asian Youth Boxing Championships** held in **Al Ain, UAE** on Sunday. This remarkable achievement not only highlights Thapa's exceptional talent but also underscores India's rising prowess in women's boxing on the international stage.
- **An olympic champion, Neeraj Chopra** finished **second in the Diamond League (DL) final** by throwing the **throw of 87.86m in Brussels**. He just missed first place by just 0.01m to Andersen Peters. Neeraj Chopra finished the 2024 season with silver in the last competition.
- The **WorldSkills 2024** competition in Lyon, France, witnessed a remarkable performance by the Indian contingent, showcasing the country's growing prowess in various skill domains on the international stage. With an impressive haul of **4 Bronze medals and 12 Medallions of Excellence**, India has firmly established itself as a rising force in the global skills arena.
- **Glasgow**, which hosted the event 10 years ago, will do so again, though some sports will need to be dropped as the Commonwealth Games Federation aims to reduce costs.
- **India's Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW)** appointed **Manu Bhaker, the double Olympic medal winner**, as a **brand ambassador**.
- **Magnus Carlsen and Judit Polgar** were **felicitated with the best male and female player awards**, respectively at the **FIDE 100 Awards ceremony in Hungary**.
- Renowned **Indian boxer Nikhat Zareen** has reported for duty as **Deputy Superintendent of Police** after handing over her joining report to the **Director General of Police Jitender**.
- **Commonwealth Heavyweight champion Sangram Singh** has made an unforgettable entrance into the world of **Mixed Martial Arts (MMA)**. The Indian wrestler's debut at the **Gama International Fighting Championship** in **Tbilisi, Georgia**, has set a new benchmark for Indian fighters in international MMA competitions.
- **IBSF (International Billiards and Snooker Foundation) World Men's 6, 2024 Red Snooker Championship** A veteran **Kamal Chawla** wins **Gold** after beating a player from Pakistan in the final. Also, India bagged **three bronze medals** also in the event final. The tournament was held in Mongolia.

Sports Current Affairs of August 2024

Cricket {National Game of Australia, Bermuda, England, Jamaica No. of Players: 11

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- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has revealed the recipients of the ICC Players of the Month awards for July 2024. England's **Gus Atkinson** and Sri Lanka's **Chamari Athapaththu** have been crowned as the standout performers in men's and women's cricket.
- **Dawid Malan**, the former top-ranked **T20 batter** and a versatile player who achieved the rare feat of scoring centuries for England in all formats, has announced his retirement from international cricket.
- **Bangladesh** has emerged as the new champion of the **SAFF (South Asian Football Federation) U-20 Championship** football tournament. This victory marks a significant milestone in Bangladesh's football history, as it is the first time the nation has claimed this prestigious title.

Important Terms associated: tennis

- **Novak Djokovic** of Serbia secured his first Olympic gold medal at the **Paris 2024 Olympics**. The 37-year-old tennis legend overcame Spain's **Carlos Alcaraz** in a gripping men's singles final at **Roland Garros** on Sunday, cementing his status in the annals of tennis history.

Football {National Game of Brazil, Italy, Germany, Israel, Mauritius, Poland No. of Players: 11

Important Terms Associated: Back Pass, Corner Kick, Free Kick, Dribble, Futsal, Header, Kick off, Banana Kick, Toe Poke, Throw-in, Bicycle Kick}

Grand Prixes

- The Dutch Grand Prix witnessed a spectacular display of skill and determination as **Lando Norris** secured his **second career win**, outpacing championship leader **Max Verstappen** in a thrilling race.

Hockey

- Hockey India (HI) has officially announced that retiring **goalkeeper PR Sreejesh** will be the **new head coach for the Indian junior men's hockey team**.

Badminton / Boxing/ Wrestling/Weightlifting

- **Para shuttler Pramod Bhagat** has been suspended by the Badminton World Federation for a period of **18 months** for breaching the **anti-doping regulations**. Now, Pramod will **miss the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games**.





Other Sports Current Affairs

- **Manu Bhaker**, India's two-time Olympic bronze medallist, has been chosen to be **India's flagbearer** for the closing ceremony of the Paris Olympics.
- **American sprinter Noah Lyles clinched gold** in the **men's 100-meter** sprint at the 2024 Paris Olympics. The race was one of the closest in Olympic history, with Lyles finishing just 0.005 seconds **ahead of Jamaica's Kishane Thompson**.
- In a significant gesture to commemorate the upcoming **Paris Olympics**, the **Department of Posts** is set to release a special set of postage stamps. This event, scheduled for Monday, 5th August 2024, at 12:00 PM.
- **India and Saint Christopher & Nevis** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance **cooperation in the field of sports**.
- Indian wrestler **Vinesh Phogat** has been **disqualified from the Paris Olympics** after failing to meet weight requirement for her **50 kg gold medal**.
- The **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** has announced that **hockey goalkeeper PR Sreejesh** and **pistol shooter Manu Bhaker** will be the **co-flag bearers for India** at the **closing ceremony of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games**.
- The first-ever **Global Women's Kabaddi League** will commence next month (September) in **Haryana**. Officially named the **Global Pravasi Women's Kabaddi League (GPKL)**, this groundbreaking tournament will feature **female athletes from over 15 countries**.
- The **Paralympic Committee of India** has made a significant announcement regarding the country's representation at the upcoming **2024 Paris Paralympics**.
- **Top-ranked Jannik Sinner** and **women's No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka** each secured their **first Cincinnati Open titles** with straight-set victories.
- **Neeraj Chopra** delivered an impressive performance at the **Lausanne Diamond League**, securing his second-best javelin throw ever with a **season-best distance of 89.49 meters** on his final attempt.
- **Diana Pundole, a teacher and mother from Pune**, has made history as the first Indian woman to win the national championship in the saloon category at the **MRF Indian National Car Racing Championship 2024 held in Chennai**.
- **14-year-old Tanvi Patri** from Odisha, India, has etched her name in the annals of badminton history. Patri clinched the **women's singles title** at the prestigious Asian U-15 Junior Championships 2024, held in **Chengdu**, People's Republic of China, from August 20-25, 2024.
- In a significant achievement for Indian surfing, the national team secured a **silver medal** at the prestigious **Maruhaba Cup**, a team event at the **Asian Surfing Championships 2024**. The competition, held in **Thulusdhoo, Maldives**, concluded on Sunday, marking a new chapter in India's surfing history.

- **Karthik Venkataraman** won the 61st edition of the **Indian National Championship** after **scoring 9/11 points** at the event organised by the **Haryana Chess Association**.

Sports Current Affairs of July 2024

Cricket {National Game of Australia, Bermuda, England, Jamaica No. of Players: 11

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- In a **historic** moment for Indian cricket, the national team lifted the **T20 World Cup** trophy, ending an 11-year wait for a global title. The **nailed-biting final** against South Africa saw India emerge victorious by a narrow margin of seven runs. As the team celebrated their hard-fought win, fans were stunned by an unexpected announcement from their beloved captain, **Virat Kohli**.
- In the aftermath of India's **thrilling victory** over South Africa in the T20 World Cup final, Rohit Sharma confirmed that he had donned the blue jersey for the last time in T20 internationals. The announcement sent ripples through the cricketing world, marking the end of an era for Indian T20 cricket.
- Star India all-rounder **Ravindra Jadeja** has announced his decision to **retire from T20 internationals** following **India's T20 World Cup 2024 triumph**. Ravindra Jadeja has called it quits from **T20 internationals**, bowing out on a high with the **T20 World Cup 2024 trophy**.
- The **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** has announced a consolidated cash prize of **Rs. 125 crore** for the **Indian men's T20 World Cup-winning squad**. The amount is a little over three times than the combined figure that was distributed as bonus after the Men in Blue won the **2011 ODI World Cup**.
- **Jasprit Bumrah**, the hero of India's victorious **T20 World Cup** campaign, has added another accolade to his illustrious career. He was named the **'ICC Men's Player of the Month for June'**, cementing his status as one of cricket's premier fast bowlers. **Smriti Mandhana**, the vice-captain of the Indian women's cricket team, secured her first **ICC Women's Player of the Month** award.
- In a momentous occasion for cricket fans worldwide, **James Anderson**, the veteran English speedster, has officially announced his retirement from Test cricket. The 41-year-old bowler's illustrious career, spanning an impressive **21 years**, came to a close at the very ground where it all began – the iconic **Lord's Cricket Ground** in London.
- **Cricketer Virat Kohli** has reclaimed the top spot to become **India's most valued celebrity**, boasting a brand value of **\$227.9 million in 2023**. However, this value still falls short of his peak brand value of **\$237.7 million in 2020**, as reported by Kroll's **Celebrity Brand Valuation Report 2023**.





- The **Chennai Super Kings (CSK)**, one of the most successful franchises in the **Indian Premier League (IPL)**, has announced a significant expansion of its global presence with the establishment of its third international **Super Kings Academy** in Sydney, Australia. This move not only enhances CSK's international profile but also reinforces the franchise's long-standing connection with Australian cricket.
- In a **riveting finale** of the World Championship of Legends 2024, **India Champions** clinched a memorable victory against their arch-rivals **Pakistan Champions** by five wickets. The match, held at **Edgbaston** on July 13, 2024, showcased the enduring spirit of cricket and the fierce competition between these two cricketing powerhouses.
- The **Board of Control for Cricket** in India Secretary Jay Shah on July 20 said that the **BCCI** will provide **Rs 8.5 crore** to the **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** as a support for the Indian contingent.
- **Harmanpreet Kaur** has now become the top run-scorer in women's T20I cricket for India, overtaking **Smriti Mandhana**.
- **Ajinkya Naik**, at 37 years old, has been elected as the youngest president in the history of the **Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA)**.

Important Terms associated: tennis

- Former Indian tennis stars **Leander Paes** and **Vijay Amritraj** have become the **first Asian men** to be inducted into the prestigious **International Tennis Hall of Fame**.

Football {National Game of Brazil, Italy, Germany, Israel, Mauritius, Poland No. of Players: 11

Important Terms Associated: Back Pass, Corner Kick, Free Kick, Dribble, Futsal, Header, Kick off, Banana Kick, Toe Poke, Throw-in, Bicycle Kick}

- In a thrilling finale to Euro 2024, **Spain** secured their **fourth European Championship** trophy with a nail-biting 2-1 victory over **England** at the **Olympiastadion** in Berlin. This win cements Spain's status as the most successful nation in the tournament's history and marks their third title in the last five editions.
- In a move that marks the conclusion of an illustrious international career, **Thomas Müller**, the German football icon, has announced his retirement from international football following the conclusion of **Euro 2024**. This decision brings to a close a chapter that has spanned over a decade, leaving an indelible mark on German and world football.
- **Manolo Marquez** was appointed as the new head coach of the **Indian men's football team** by the **All India Football Federation (AIFF)** on **July 20**. **Marquez will take over as the full-time national team head coach after ISL 2024-25**.

Grand Prixes

- **Lewis Hamilton** has won the **British Grand Prix 2024**. He became the first F1 driver to win on any track nine times and also extended his F1 record to 104 wins. His last came at the Saudi Arabian GP in December 2021 — the year he lost the title to Red Bull driver Verstappen.
- The Australian Formula 1 (F1) racer **Oscar Piastri** secured his first-ever F1 title victory at the **Hungarian Grand Prix**.
- The Australian Formula 1 (F1) racer **Oscar Piastri** secured his first-ever F1 title victory at the **Hungarian Grand Prix**. The Australian rookie led a strong McLaren one-two finish alongside the British-Belgian racer **Lando Norris**.
- **Kush Maini** achieved his **first-ever Formula 2 win** at the **Hungarian Grand Prix** after **Richard Verschoor**, the original sprint race winner, was disqualified due to a technical infringement. This victory marks **Maini's fifth podium of the season**, placing him eighth in the championship standings, just three points behind Dennis Hauger.

Hockey

- **Indian hockey goalkeeper PR Sreejesh**, a pivotal figure in the sport, has announced that he will retire from international hockey following the **Paris Olympics 2024**.

Badminton / Boxing / Wrestling / Weightlifting Sports Events | Tournaments Current Affairs Other Sports Current Affairs

- **Viswanathan Anand**, the former world chess champion from India, achieved a remarkable feat. He won the **Leon Masters chess championship** for the 10th time, defeating **Jaime Santos Latasa** of Spain in the final with a score of 3-1. This victory adds another jewel to Anand's crown of achievements in the world of chess.
- **India's U23 wrestling team** excelled in **Amman, Jordan**, clinching a total of **19 medals across women's wrestling, Greco-Roman, and freestyle** categories. The women wrestlers led with three gold medals, showcasing dominance in their divisions. Meenakshi, Pushpa Yadav, and Priya Malik stood out with impressive performances, securing victories by various methods including **Victory by Superiority and Victory by Fall**.
- The **Austrian Grand Prix 2024** will be remembered as a day of unexpected twists and turns, culminating in a stunning victory for **George Russell** of **Mercedes**. This race, held at the iconic **Red Bull Ring** in Spielberg, Austria, showcased the unpredictable nature of Formula 1 racing and the skill of drivers who can capitalize on sudden opportunities.
- A 28-member **Indian athletics team**, led by men's javelin throw defending champion **Neeraj Chopra**, will compete at the **Paris 2024 Olympics**, the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) announced on June 04. Chopra made history three years ago by becoming the first Indian **track and field** athlete to win a medal at the Olympics, that too a **gold**. This time, the Indian javelin throw ace will have Olympic debutant Kishore Jena for company in his pet event.





- **Dhruv Sitwala** claimed his **third Asian Billiards** Title by defeating **Pankaj Advani** in **Riyadh, Saudi Arabia**. Organized by the ACBS, the championship featured various events including Men's Snooker Team, Men's Billiards, and Women's Asian Snooker.
- Indian squash players secured two titles at the recently concluded **Asian Squash Doubles Championship 2024** held at the Arena Emas in **Johor, Malaysia**. The Indian team clinched victories in both the men's doubles and mixed doubles categories.
- Sports brand **PUMA India** has announced a significant partnership with the **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)**, becoming the **Official Footwear Partner** for the Indian contingent at the **Paris Olympics 2024**. This collaboration marks a major step in supporting Indian athletes on the global stage and promoting sports excellence in the country.
- **The Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** has announced that India will continue the tradition of having two flag bearers for the **Paris 2024 Olympics**, following the precedent set at Tokyo 2020. This decision aligns with the **International Olympic Committee's** push for gender equality in sports. **PV Sindhu**, the badminton ace, has been chosen as the female flag bearer for the Indian contingent. **Sharath Kamal**, the veteran table tennis player, will serve as the male flag bearer.
- **Four-time Olympian** and **2012 Olympic bronze medalist** Gagan Narang has been appointed as India's Chef-De-Mission for the **2024 Paris Olympics**. This decision comes after Mary Kom's resignation from the position due to health issues.
- In a significant development for Indian sports, **Gautam Adani**, Chairman of the Adani Group, has declared that the conglomerate will be the principal sponsor of the Indian contingent at the upcoming **2024 Paris Olympics**. This announcement marks a pivotal moment in the preparation of Indian athletes for one of the world's most prestigious sporting events.
- **Eurosport India** has announced the appointment of renowned Indian cricketer **Shikhar Dhawan** as the brand ambassador for **MotoGP™** in India.
- The **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** on July 12, announced that it has partnered with the National Olympic Committee (NOC) of **Saudi Arabia** to host the inaugural **Olympic Esports Games 2025** in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- Six-time Grand Slam winner and former **World No. 1** in women's doubles **Sania Mirza**, six-time World Champion and Olympic bronze medallist **MC Mary Kom** and actor **Rannvijay Singha** have joined 'Play Sports' as brand ambassadors.

- The Indian gymnast, **Dipa Karmakar**, has scripted history by becoming the first-ever Indian to secure a gold medal in any **Asian Championships**. Hailing from Tripura, Dipa achieved this remarkable feat in the women's vault individual final at the Asian Women's Artistic Gymnastics Championships 2024, held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on May 26, 2024.

Sports Current Affairs of June 2024

Cricket {National Game of Australia, Bermuda, England, Jamaica No. of Players: 11

Important Terms associated: Arm ball, Beamer, Bottom hand, Bouncer, Cameo, Carrom ball, Chinaman, Flick, Free hit, Glance, Googly, Hat-trick, Hit wicket, Leg bye, Nelson, Night watchman, Pinch hitter, Sweep, Upper Cut.}

- **Dinesh Karthik**, the veteran **wicketkeeper-batter**, announced his **retirement** from all forms of cricket. The writing was on the wall after his emotional farewell from the **Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB)** franchise in the recently concluded **Indian Premier League (IPL)** season.
- The ninth edition of the **ICC Men's T20 World Cup** promises to be a thrilling spectacle, with the winners set to take home a **record-breaking prize money** of at least **\$2.45 million**. In addition to the championship glory, the **runners-up** will receive a substantial sum of at least **\$1.28 million**, while the losing **semi-finalists** will each earn a significant **\$787,500**. The total prize pot for the tournament stands at an impressive **\$11.25 million**, ensuring that even the teams that fail to advance beyond the Super 8s stage will be rewarded handsomely.
- The cricketing world witnessed another veteran hanging up his boots as **Kedar Jadhav**, the 39-year-old former Indian all-rounder, announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.
- **Rohit Sharma**, fondly known as the "Hitman" for his ability to hit towering sixes, etched his name in the record books by becoming the first cricketer in the world to hit 600 sixes in international cricket.
- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has named **Gudakesh Motie** of the West Indies as the **ICC Men's Player of the Month for May 2024**. In the women's category, **Chamari Athapaththu** of Sri Lanka has been named the **ICC Women's Player of the Month for May 2024**.
- According to the **Celebrity Brand Valuation Report 2023** released by global consulting firm Kroll, cricketer **Virat Kohli** has reclaimed the top spot as India's **most valued celebrity brand** with a brand value of **\$227.9 million**. This marks a **30% jump** from his brand value of \$176.9 million in 2022.
- **Pat Cummins**, the fast bowler, spearheaded the bowling attack by claiming a hat-trick, while David Warner's unbeaten fifty guaranteed a smooth chase as Australia comfortably defeated Bangladesh in their '**Super 8s' Group 1** encounter of the **T20 World Cup**. The match, held in **Antigua** on June 21, was under the threat of rain that disrupted proceedings twice.





- **Rohit Sharma** became the first player to hit **200 sixes** in **T20Is** during the T20 World Cup 2024 Super Eight Group 1 match against **Australia** at the **Daren Sammy National Cricket Stadium in St. Lucia** on June 24. Rohit struck a **41-ball 92** and hit **eight sixes in the innings**, taking his overall tally to **203 maximums** in the shortest format of the game.
- **Smriti Mandhana** became the **first Indian woman** to record **two consecutive ODI hundreds** during the second ODI against **South Africa** at the **M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru** on June 19. She scripted history on June 23, after she registered the record for the most runs by an Indian woman in a bilateral **One-Day International series**.
- **Pat Cummins** made history on June 23, as he became **first player** to pick up **2 hat-tricks in T20 World Cups** during the Super 8 clash between **Australia and Afghanistan** in St. Vincent. Cummins picked up the wickets of **Rashid Khan, Karim Janat and Gulbadin Naib** to achieve the feat.
- The **cricketing world** bid farewell to one of its most dynamic players as **David Warner** officially retired from international cricket. Warner's illustrious 15-year career with the **Australian national team** came to an end following Australia's elimination from the **T20 World Cup** in the Super Eight phase.
- On a remarkable Friday at Chennai's Chepauk Stadium, young Indian opener **Shafali Verma** etched her name in the annals of cricket history with a **record-breaking double century against South Africa** in the one-off Test match.

Football {National Game of Brazil, Italy, Germany, Israel, Mauritius, Poland No. of Players: 11

Important Terms Associated: Back Pass, Corner Kick, Free Kick, Dribble, Futsal, Header, Kick off, Banana Kick, Toe Poke, Throw-in, Bicycle Kick}

- Wembley Stadium, **Real Madrid** etched their name in the history books once again by securing a record-extending **15th UEFA Champions League title**. The Spanish giants showcased their trademark resilience and clinical edge, overcoming a valiant **Borussia Dortmund** side with a **2-0 victory**.

Grand Prixes

- The **Canadian Grand Prix 2024**, also known as the **AWS GRAND PRIX DU CANADA 2024**, witnessed a remarkable display of skill and determination as Dutch-Belgian racing driver **Max Verstappen** of **Red Bull** claimed his third consecutive victory at the prestigious event. The 9th round of the 2024 F1 championships, held at the iconic **Circuit Gilles-Villeneuve** in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, further solidified Verstappen's dominance on the track.
- In a thrilling display of skill and strategy, **Max Verstappen** secured victory at the **Spanish Grand Prix** on Sunday, further solidifying his position atop the **Formula 1 drivers championship**.

Other Sports Current Affairs

- **Nayana James**, an Asian Athletics Championships bronze medalist, etched her name in glory by clinching the **gold medal** in the women's **long jump** event at the **Taiwan Athletics Open 2024** held in Chinese Taipei. Braving rainy conditions at the Taipei Municipal Stadium, Nayana recorded an impressive distance of **6.43m** to secure the top spot on the podium.
- The International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF) World Cup, a prestigious shooting tournament, is currently underway in **Munich, Germany**, from **May 31 to June 8, 2024**. Amidst the intense competition, Indian shooter **Sarabjot Singh** has etched his name in history by claiming India's **first medal** at the event.
- The prestigious **Norway Chess Tournament** witnessed an electrifying conclusion as the reigning **World No. 1, Magnus Carlsen**, etched his name into the annals of chess history by claiming his sixth title. In a gripping final round, Carlsen out manoeuvred the formidable **Fabiano Caruana** in an intense **Armageddon** match, solidifying his dominance on the global stage.
- Indian tennis sensation **Sumit Nagpal** has etched his name in history by winning the prestigious **Heilbronn Neckarcup 2024 ATP Challenger Tennis tournament** in Germany. This remarkable achievement marks Nagpal's **sixth ATP Challenger title**, a feat that solidifies his position as India's top-ranked men's singles player.
- Indian strawweight **Puja Tomar** became the first ever Indian to win a bout in the UFC as she defeated **Brazil's Rayanne Amanda dos Santos** via split decision at the **UFC Louisville** on June 8. **Puja Tomar beat Rayanne Amanda dos Santos 30-27, 30-27, 29-28**.
- In a landmark decision, the Executive Board of the International Hockey Federation (FIH) has designated India as the host country for the inaugural **FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup featuring 24 teams**, set to take place in December 2025.
- **Shruti Vora**, astride Magnanimous, has become the **first Indian rider** to win a **three-star Grand Prix event**- a historic achievement for the Indian equestrian. Shruti scored **67.761 points in the CDI-3 event in Lipica, Slovenia** from June 7-9. The Indian finished ahead of **Moldova's Tatiana Antonenco (Aachen)**, who scored 66.522. **Austria's Juliane Jerich (Quarter Girl)** completed the top 3 with a score of **66.087**.
- The **2024 FIDE U-20 World Chess Championship**, organized by the International Chess Federation (FIDE), witnessed a remarkable achievement as **18-year-old Divya Deshmukh** from Nagpur, India, clinched the **FIDE Under-20 Girl's World Chess Championship** title. Deshmukh's triumph marks her as the **fourth Indian woman** to win this prestigious title, following in the footsteps of chess legends **Koneru Humpy, Harika Dronavalli, and Soumya Swaminathan**.





- In a thrilling final at the **BWF Australian Open 2024** in Sydney on Sunday (16 June), **Lee Zii Jia** from **Malaysia** emerged victorious against **Naraoka Kodai** of Japan, securing his second title of the season.
- The Indian National Ultimate Frisbee team put up a valiant effort in the finals of the Asia **Oceanic Beach Ultimate Championships (AOBUC) 2024**, finishing as runners-up after a hard-fought match against the Philippines with a final score of 9-12. This marks a historic milestone for Indian Ultimate Frisbee as the national team reached the finals for the first time, demonstrating significant growth and potential on the international stage. The tournament featured 16 teams from across Asia, Australia, and New Zealand.
- Indian **javelin star Neeraj Chopra** added another feather to his cap by clinching the **gold medal** in the men's javelin throw event at the **Paavo Nurmi Games 2024** in Turku, Finland. The Paavo Nurmi Games is a prestigious **World Athletics Continental Tour (Gold level)** event, and Neeraj's victory further solidifies his position as a dominant force in the sport.
- **Olympic bronze medalist wrestler Bajrang Punia** has been suspended by the **National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA)** for a second time for refusing to provide a urine sample during selection trials. This suspension comes after NADA revoked his previous suspension due to procedural issues. Punia's legal team plans to challenge the suspension, arguing he did not refuse to provide a sample but sought clarification on expired kits used previously.
- In a remarkable display of athletic prowess and dedication, four officers from the Armed Forces Medical Service (AFMS) of India achieved unprecedented success at the **43rd World Medical and Health Games in Saint-Tropez, France**. Lt Col Sanjeev Malik, Maj Anish George, Capt Stephen Sebastian, and Capt Dania James collectively secured a record-breaking 32 medals, comprising 19 golds, 9 silvers, and 4 bronzes. These achievements underscore their exceptional performance in the world's largest sporting event for health professionals.
- The **Archery World Cup 2024 Stage 3** in **Antalya, Turkey** concluded on June 23, 2024, with Indian archers showcasing their exceptional skills and bringing home multiple medals. 22-year-old **Dhiraj Bommadevara** emerged as a star performer for India, securing two bronze medals in recurve events.
- Indian wrestlers ended their campaign in the **Under-17 Asian Wrestling Championship 2024** with an impressive tally of **11 medals**, including **four gold, two silver, and five bronze**. The event was held in Amman, Jordan, from 22-24 June 2024. Following the U-17 competition, the U-23 championship commenced.
- After a successful **first season in Dubai**, the Global Chess League will return for another edition, this time in London. The highly anticipated second edition of Tech Mahindra Global Chess League will take place in London, England from 3rd to 12th October 2024. It will take place at Friends House in central London.

Science & Technology

Science & Technology of December 2024

SATELLITES LAUNCHES

- On December 5, 2024, ISRO's **PSLV-C59 rocket** successfully launched the **ESA's Proba-3 mission** to study the **Sun's corona**. The **twin-satellite mission** involves the **Oculter** and **Coronagraph** spacecraft, which will fly in **formation** to block the Sun's light and observe its outer atmosphere. The mission aims to demonstrate **precise formation flying** and advance understanding of **space weather**. The satellites were placed in a highly elliptical orbit with a perigee of 600 km and an apogee of 60,000 km.
- India's **Aditya L1** and ESA's **Proba-3** missions will collaborate on solar research starting in 2025. **Aditya L1**, operational since January 2024, observes the Sun from the **Lagrange point (L1)**, while **Proba-3**, launched in December 2024, uses two satellites in formation to simulate a solar eclipse. Both missions employ **coronagraphs: VELC** on Aditya L1 and

ASPIICS on Proba-3, to study the **Sun's corona**, offering unprecedented insights into its outer regions.

NATIONAL

- **IIT Ropar's iHub – AWaDH** celebrated its **4th Foundation Day** with a **Farmer Engagement Session**, marking progress in transforming agriculture through **technology**. Launched under the **National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS)** with support from the **Department of Science & Technology (DST)**, AWaDH focuses on **agriculture, water, and IoT**. It has developed over **70 technologies** and nurtured **100+ agri-tech and water-tech startups** for sustainable solutions.
- India plans to establish the **Bharat Antariksha Station** by **2035** and land an **Indian astronaut on the Moon** by **2040**, as revealed by **Union Minister Jitendra Singh**. These ambitious goals aim to position India as a **global leader** in **space exploration**, emphasizing **self-reliance** in science and technology.





- In a significant development for India's transportation future, the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras** has successfully completed a 410-meter-long Hyperloop test track. This groundbreaking achievement was officially announced by Union Railway Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw** and marks a major milestone in the country's pursuit of high-speed transportation technology. The project, which represents the first of its kind in India, is being developed as part of a **collaboration** between the Indian Railways, IIT Madras' **Avishkar Hyperloop** team, and **TuTr**, an innovative startup incubated at IIT Madras.

INTERNATIONAL

- Amazon has introduced **Nova Foundation Models (FMs)**, a breakthrough in **generative AI**, designed to process **text, images, and videos**. The **Amazon Nova** series aims to enhance **multimedia content creation, document analysis, and video understanding**, addressing challenges like **latency, cost-effectiveness, and customization**. This positions Amazon as a strong competitor in the AI space, alongside **OpenAI, Meta, and Adobe**.
- Google DeepMind introduced **GenCast**, an AI model for **weather forecasting**, surpassing the **ECMWF ENS** in accuracy. **GenCast** can predict daily weather and track extreme events like **storms**, marking a significant advancement in weather prediction technology.
- In December 2024, **marine scientists** discovered a new species of **damselfish, Chromis abadhah**, in the **mesophotic zone** of the **Maldives**. This groundbreaking discovery, made by an **international team**, adds to the country's marine biodiversity and underscores the importance of **global scientific collaboration** in exploring **deep-sea coral reefs**.
- Google's **Willow** quantum chip marks a breakthrough in computing, reducing errors and achieving exponential speed. It performs a computation in **5 minutes** that would take current supercomputers **10 septillion years**. This innovation advances Google's decade-long effort toward a **scalable quantum computer**, capable of solving complex global challenges.
- OpenAI** has launched its AI video generation model, **Sora**, for **paid subscribers**. Known as **Sora Turbo**, it enables users to create **20-second videos** in **1080p resolution**. After a nine-month delay to enhance **privacy** and **safety** features, Sora is now available for **ChatGPT Plus** and **Pro users**, allowing AI-generated videos from **text prompts** and **storyboards**.

ENVIRONMENT

- Wisdom**, the world's **oldest wild bird** at **74 years old**, a **Laysan albatross**, has made history by laying her first egg in **four years**. First banded in **1956**, Wisdom's remarkable longevity and survival instincts make her an iconic figure in **wildlife conservation**, symbolizing **resilience** and the **delicate balance of nature**.

Discovery	Details
Wisdom, the oldest wild bird	At 74 years old, Wisdom, a Laysan albatross, laid her first egg in four years. First banded in 1956, she is a symbol of resilience and wildlife conservation.

Science & Technology of November 2024

SATELLITES LAUNCHES

- ISRO is set to launch the European Union's Proba-3 Solar Observation Mission in December from Sriharikota. The mission aims to study the Sun's faint corona and is India's third space collaboration with the EU, following Proba-1 and Proba-2.
- Japanese scientists have launched the world's first wooden satellite, LignoSat, developed by Kyoto University in collaboration with Sumitomo Forestry. The satellite, made from honoki wood, aims to test the viability of timber for future space structures, exploring its resilience in space's extreme conditions.
- Zimbabwe has launched its second satellite, **ZIMSAT-2**, from the **Vostochny Cosmodrome in Russia**, a major milestone in the country's growing space programme. This satellite, equipped with a high-resolution multispectral camera, will aid in agriculture, resource exploration, environmental monitoring, and disaster management.

NATIONAL

- ISRO announced the launch of its **analogue space mission in Leh, Ladakh**. This innovative mission aims to simulate life in an interplanetary habitat, addressing the challenges associated with establishing a base station beyond Earth. Through this initiative, ISRO seeks to gather insights and prepare for future space exploration endeavors.
- India's **GSAT-20** heavy communication satellite, weighing **4,700 kg**, will be launched from **Cape Canaveral, USA** on **November 19, 2024**, by **Elon Musk's SpaceX**. Developed by the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**, the satellite will provide crucial **communication services**, including internet connectivity to remote areas. This launch marks a significant milestone in **India's space endeavors**, as the satellite is too heavy for India's own launch vehicle, the **LVM-3 "Bahubali"**.
- STRONG** is a new **computational language** developed by researchers at the **Indian Institute of Science (IISc)** for encoding the shape and structure of **nanopores**. It uses unique letters to represent atomic configurations at nanopore edges, simplifying their representation for **machine learning (ML)** models. **STRONG** enables **data reduction**, integrates with **ML** for accurate property predictions, and aids in **reverse engineering** nanopores with desired characteristics. The tool is a major advancement in **nanopore research** and **materials science**.





- **TakeMe2Space (TM2Space)**, a **Hyderabad-based** space tech company, will launch **India's first AI laboratory in space, MOI-TD**, aboard **ISRO's PSLV C60 rocket** in December 2024. The mission will enable **real-time in-orbit data processing**, reducing **data transmission costs** and expanding space research access. Developed with support from **IN-SPACE Technical Centre**, the initiative aims to **democratize space technology** and accelerate **India's space innovation**.
- **ISRO** will launch the **ESA's Proba-3 mission** on **December 4, 2024**, using the **PSLV-XL rocket**. The mission will study the **Sun's corona** through **precision formation flying** with two satellites: the **Oculter Spacecraft** (200 kg) and the **Coronagraph Spacecraft** (340 kg). This mission, the first of its kind, aims to create an **artificial solar eclipse** to observe the Sun's outer atmosphere, showcasing a **technological breakthrough** and **international collaboration** in space exploration.
- **ISRO** has announced several **groundbreaking initiatives**, including the **Shukrayaan Venus Mission** set for launch in **2028** to explore **Venus's atmosphere and surface**. Other plans include advancements in **lunar, Mars missions**, the development of **India's space station**, and upgrades to **weather and communication systems**, reflecting India's growing ambitions in **space exploration** and interplanetary studies.
- Union Minister **Dr. Jitendra Singh** announced the selection of **eight startups** under the **National Quantum Mission (NQM)** and **National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NMICPS)**. These startups are driving innovations in **quantum technology**, focusing on areas like **secure communication, quantum computing, quantum sensing, and energy efficiency**. Notable startups include **QNu Labs, QPIAI India, Dimira Technologies, and Pristine Diamonds**, among others, contributing to advancements in **cryogenics, superconducting materials, and quantum applications**.

INTERNATIONAL

- China successfully launched a new spacecraft carrying three astronauts, including the country's first female space engineer, on a six-month mission. This crew will work on fine-tuning operations at **China's low-orbit space station, marking a significant step in the country's advancing space exploration efforts**.
- **NASA and Microsoft** have partnered to develop "Earth Copilot," an AI-powered chatbot designed to simplify access to **NASA's vast geospatial data**. By utilizing **Microsoft's Azure cloud** and advanced AI, Earth Copilot enables users to interact with complex **Earth Science data** through simple,

plain-language queries. This makes it easier for a broader audience to retrieve and understand information on topics like **hurricane impacts** and **climate change monitoring**, which previously required specialized knowledge.

- **SpaceX** successfully launched the **ISRO's GSAT-N2** communication satellite from **Canaveral Space Force Station** in Florida. The satellite is designed to enhance **broadband connectivity** and support India's **Smart Cities Mission**. This launch, carried aboard **SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket**, marks the first **commercial collaboration** between **ISRO and SpaceX**, highlighting India's increasing reliance on **international partnerships** to achieve its ambitious space and technological goals.

Science & Technology of October 2024

- **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)**, a Navratna defense PSU, and **Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI)**, Israel's leading aerospace and defense company, have established a **joint venture (JV)** named **BEL IAI AeroSystems Private Ltd**. The JV, headquartered in Delhi, aims to serve as the single point of contact for long-term product support of the **Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MRSAM)** systems utilized by India's defense forces. This partnership underscores the long-standing collaboration between BEL and IAI on various strategic programs, enhancing India's defense capabilities while aligning with the government's vision of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'.
- **NASA's SpaceX Crew-9 mission** successfully launched on Sept. 28, 2024, from **Space Launch Complex-40, Cape Canaveral**, at 1:17 p.m. EDT. The mission is part of NASA's continued efforts to support scientific research aboard the ISS. **Astronaut Nick Hague** and **cosmonaut Aleksandr Gorbunov** will spend five months aboard the space station, conducting crucial scientific experiments.
- **Google for India 2024**, marking the **tech giant's 10th event in the country**, underscored its commitment to driving India's digital transformation through AI-powered innovations. **Celebrating 20 years of Google's** operations in India, the event focused on addressing India's unique challenges by introducing AI solutions across healthcare, payments, language support, and sustainability.
- India's National Space Commission has officially approved the **Lunar Polar Exploration Mission (Lupex)**, marking the country's fifth lunar mission. This mission follows the successful landing of **Chandrayaan-3** in August 2023, which made India the fourth nation to land on the Moon. Lupex is a collaborative endeavor between India's **ISRO** and Japan's **JAXA**, aimed at exploring the Moon's resources, particularly water in its polar regions.





- The recent outbreak of **Marburg virus in Rwanda** has raised significant alarm, marking the first reported cases in the country. As of late September 2024, health officials confirmed **26 cases**, including **12 fatalities**, with over 80% of infections occurring among healthcare workers. The Marburg virus is one of the deadliest pathogens known, causing severe hemorrhagic fever with a case fatality rate ranging **from 24% to 88%**. Given Rwanda's limited healthcare resources, this outbreak poses a substantial threat to the country's already fragile health system.
- ShaktiSAT Mission: Empowering 12,000 Girls in Space Technology Aerospace startup Space Kidz India has launched the **ShaktiSAT** mission, aiming to **train 12,000 girls aged 14-18 from 108 countries** in space technology, targeting a satellite launch under ISRO's **Chandrayaan-4** mission in 2026. A prototype presentation will be made to Prime Minister Narendra Modi later this year or early next year.
- In a significant step towards positioning India as a **global leader in biotechnology and sustainable solutions**, **Dr. Jitendra Singh**, Union Minister of State for Science and Technology, inaugurated **India's first Demonstration Facility for Biopolymers at Jejuri** in Pune in October 2024.
- The **Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** has partnered with Meta to introduce an AI-powered assistant for the **Skill India Digital (SID)** Portal and establish **five Centres of Excellence (CoEs)** in Virtual Reality (VR) and Mixed Reality (MR) across India. The AI assistant, built on Meta's open-source Llama model, aims to streamline learning experiences and improve skill development outcomes for Indian youth. Sarvam AI, the technical partner, will pilot the chatbot over six months, offering 24/7 support via WhatsApp in English, Hindi, and Hinglish, enhancing accessibility for learners. Skill India Mission: Key Points
- Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan announced the establishment of three **Artificial Intelligence Centres of Excellence (AI-COEs)** focused on health, agriculture, and sustainable cities. These centres, located at **AIIMS Delhi, IIT Ropar, and IIT Kanpur**, will promote research, innovation, and economic development while addressing public welfare.
- **NASA's Europa Clipper spacecraft** has embarked on a monumental **journey to explore Europa, one of Jupiter's moons that is believed to harbor a vast subsurface ocean beneath its icy shell**. The mission, which launched on October 14, 2024, aboard a SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket, marks the beginning of an exciting scientific quest to determine whether this distant ocean world could support life.
- **The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras** has announced plans to launch its inaugural **international flagship centre** in Dubai, focusing on research, innovation, and entrepreneurship. Set to open in early 2025, this initiative aims to foster collaboration and knowledge exchange between India and the UAE.
- Union Culture and Tourism **Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** and **Minister of State for Coal and Mines Satish Chandra Dubey** inaugurated the **first-ever coal gallery** at the **National Science Centre in New Delhi**. The exhibition, titled **"Black Diamond – Unveiling the Depths,"** highlights **coal's journey** from its formation to its essential role in modern energy production.
- A team of scientists has discovered a new species of snake in the Western Himalayas, naming it **Anguiculus dicaprio** in honor of Hollywood star Leonardo DiCaprio, recognizing his significant contributions to wildlife conservation.
- In a strategic move to bolster **artificial intelligence (AI) in India**, Meta has partnered with IndiaAI and the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** to drive open-source AI research and skill development. This collaboration includes establishing a Center for Generative AI at IIT Jodhpur and launching the **"AI for Skilling and Capacity Building"** initiative, aimed at empowering the youth and fostering a sustainable AI ecosystem.
- China successfully launched a new spacecraft carrying three astronauts, including the country's first female space engineer, on a six-month mission. This crew will work on fine-tuning operations at **China's low-orbit space station, marking a significant step in the country's advancing space exploration efforts.**

Science & Technology of September 2024

- **Google DeepMind's India** unit is spearheading an ambitious **AI project named Morni** (Multimodal Representation for India), aiming to encompass **125 Indic languages and dialects**. Speaking at the Global Fintech Fest, Manish Gupta, Director of Google DeepMind India, highlighted that among these languages, 73 had no existing digital corpus. Despite Hindi being spoken by nearly 10% of the global population, its online text representation is just 0.1%.
- **Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan**, the **Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi**, has officially inaugurated the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi Abu Dhabi campus**.





- In a significant development for the global telecommunications industry, **Counterpoint Research** has reported that India has surpassed the United States to become the **world's second-largest market for 5G smartphones**. This shift underscores India's rapid technological advancement and the growing demand for high-speed connectivity across the nation.
- The Union Cabinet has approved the **Chandrayaan-4 mission**, which aims to develop technologies for returning to Earth after landing on the moon and collecting lunar samples for analysis. The total cost of the mission is **Rs 2104.06 crore**, covering spacecraft development, two LVM3 launches, deep space network support, and special tests for validation. The mission will be **completed within 36 months**, involving significant participation from industry and academia.
- **The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** has approved the development of **Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV)**, that will be a significant step towards the Government's vision of establishing & operating the Bharatiya Antariksh Station and towards developing capability for Indian Crewed Landing on the Moon by 2040.
- **SpaceX's Polaris Dawn mission**, concluded on September 15, 2024, with a splashdown in the **Gulf of Mexico**, is a significant breakthrough in commercial space exploration. **Led by billionaire Jared Isaacman**, this mission achieved several firsts, including the first private spacewalk and the highest orbital altitude reached since **NASA's Apollo era**. These milestones mark a new era for private space ventures, pushing boundaries in space technology, exploration, and research.
- **ISRO, IN-SPACe, and NSIL** have reached a significant milestone by signing **75 Technology Transfer Agreements (TTAs)** with **non-governmental entities (NGEs)**. On September 20, 2024, five TTAs were signed at IN-SPACe, Bengaluru, with Anabond Ltd., Salvo Industries Pvt. Ltd., Micropack Pvt. Ltd., and Astra Microwave Products Ltd. These TTAs reflect India's efforts to boost private participation in space technology, expanding the scope for commercial applications and the overall growth of the space industry.
- **Russian cosmonauts Oleg Kononenko and Nikolai Chub** have set a new record for the longest single mission aboard the **International Space Station (ISS)**, surpassing the

previous record held by cosmonauts Sergei Prokopyev, Dmitry Petelin, and NASA astronaut Francisco Rubio, who spent 370 days onboard from September 2022 to September 2023. **Kononenko and Chub arrived at the ISS on September 15, 2023, via the Soyuz MS-24 spacecraft** and are scheduled to return to **Earth on the Soyuz MS-25 on September 23, 2024, totaling 374 days in space.**

- In a monumental step for **India's space program**, **Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla** of the Indian Air Force (IAF) will pilot the Axiom-4 (Ax-4) mission to the International Space Station (ISS) in 2025.
- As we commemorate **Google's 26th anniversary** in 2024, we reflect on the tech giant's remarkable journey from a simple search engine to a global powerhouse that has fundamentally reshaped our digital landscape. Founded in 1998, Google has become an integral part of our daily lives, offering a vast array of services that span information retrieval, communication, entertainment, and beyond.
- Earth is set to welcome a temporary **"mini-moon"** in the form of a small asteroid **named 2024 PT5**, which will orbit our planet from **September 29 to November 25, 2024**. Discovered by **NASA's Asteroid Terrestrial-Impact Last Alert System (Atlas)** on August 7, 2024, this asteroid measures approximately **33 feet wide** and originates from the **Arjuna asteroid belt**, a region filled with various space rocks. While it cannot be observed with the naked eye or typical telescopes, professional astronomers will be able to capture images of this tiny object moving rapidly across the night sky.

Science & Technology of August 2024

- **Women** led the way in **living organ donation**, offering patients suffering from end-stage organ failure a new lease of life. Data released by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** show that the number of women living donors was **9,784 last year compared to 5,651 men.**
- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** is set to celebrate its 55th foundation day on August 15, 2024, with a significant milestone – the launch of the **Earth Observation Satellite-08 (EOS-08).**
- China has taken a significant step in advancing its **low-altitude economy** by testing its **largest unmanned cargo aircraft yet.** This move highlights the country's push to expand its drone capabilities, with the goal of creating a **\$279-billion industry by 2030.**





- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** on August 13, 2024 successfully carried out the maiden flight test of the **long-range glide bomb (LRGB)** Gaurav from a **Su-30 MK-I fighter jet** of the Indian Air Force.
- SpaceX's upcoming **Polaris Dawn mission** is set to make history as the **first private spacewalk**. Scheduled for launch on August 26, 2024, at 3:38 a.m. EDT (0738 GMT).
- **Gopichand Thotakura, India's first civilian space tourist**, received a warm welcome in Delhi upon his return on August 26, 2024.
- The **Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation** has granted approval to **Siemens Healthineers for the manufacture of RT-PCR testing kits** for detection of **Mpox**, a senior Health Ministry official said.
- **Bharat Biotech International Ltd** has launched **Hillchol (BBV131)**, a novel single-strain oral cholera vaccine (OCV) developed under license from **Hilleman Laboratories**. This launch is critical as global demand for **OCVs exceeds 100 million** doses annually, and there has been a deficit of approximately **40 million doses** due to limited supply.
- An outbreak of bird flu, caused by the **H5N1 strain of avian influenza**, has been reported in **Pipili town, Puri district, Odisha**. Authorities have culled over **11,700 chickens** following the **detection of the virus**.
- **NASA engineers** are developing **underwater robot probes** to measure the rate of ice shelf melting in Antarctica due to climate change. These robots, developed by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, aim to provide accurate data to improve predictions of sea level rise.
- **More than 50 illnesses and nine deaths** have been reported due to **Listeria outbreak in US**. According to latest data released by the **Centre for Disease Control and Prevention CDC**, the outbreak has been reported in 18 states with a total of 57 people have been hospitalised.
- A **Google employee** recently created the "**world's first AI dress**" and it has astonished many on the internet. **Christina Ernst**, a **software engineer** at the tech giant and the **Founder of SheBuildsRobots.org**, a platform which aims to educate girls on building robots, shared a clip of her creation which has robotic snakes attached to it to detect faces.
- **The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** on June 2, announced that India's inaugural solar mission has completed **its halo orbit around the Sun-Earth L1 point** on July 2. This significant breakthrough was achieved after a station keeper manoeuvre made its transition into the **second halo orbit**.
- **Europe's new Ariane 6 rocket** successfully blasted off for the **first time**, restoring the continent's independent access to space after a series of setbacks. Initially delayed for an hour by a small problem, the rocket lifted off from Kourou, French Guiana, releasing satellites into orbit. This launch marked a significant milestone for European space efforts, which had suffered from delays and loss of independent launch capabilities.
- The World Health Organization (**WHO**) has launched **MeDeViS (Medical Devices Information System)**, an online platform designed to be the first global open access clearing house for information on medical devices. It aims to support governments, regulators, and users in making informed decisions about the selection, procurement, and use of medical devices for diagnostics, testing, and treatment of various health conditions.
- **Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Sanjay Seth** inaugurated the GRSE Accelerated Innovation Nurturing Scheme (GAINS 2024) at **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited (GRSE) in Kolkata** on July 10, 2024. This initiative aims to foster technological solutions for shipyard challenges and promote innovation through Indian start-ups.
- In a groundbreaking achievement, NASA has transmitted Missy Elliott's 1997 hit song "**The Rain (Supa Dupa Fly)**" to **Venus**, marking the first time a hip-hop song has been beamed into deep space. The transmission was made possible through **NASA's Deep Space Network (DSN)**, from their **Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Southern California**. Traveling at the speed of light, the song covered the vast distance of 158 million miles to Venus, taking approximately 14 minutes to reach its destination.
- **Elon Musk** said on July 16, said that he would move the **headquarters of two of his businesses**, the social media platform X and the **rocket manufacturer SpaceX**, to Texas, escalating an increasingly contentious **fight with California**.

Science & Technology of July 2024

- **Space Exploration and Research Agency (SERA)** and **Blue Origin** have designated India as a partner nation in their **human spaceflight initiative**, inviting Indian citizens to participate in a historic opportunity. The program offers six seats aboard Blue Origin's New Shepard rocket, taking participants on an 11-minute journey beyond the Kármán line, the boundary of space.





- NASA has achieved a significant milestone with the discovery of **six new exoplanets**: HD 36384 b, TOI-198 b, TOI-2095 b, TOI-2095 c, TOI-4860 b, and MWC 758 c. This brings the total number of confirmed exoplanets outside our solar system to 5,502, marking a remarkable advancement in our understanding of the universe and the potential for extraterrestrial life.
- In a bold move that could reshape the landscape of internet search, **OpenAI**, the company behind the revolutionary ChatGPT, has announced the development of an **AI-powered search engine** called **SearchGPT**.

Science & Technology of June 2024

- As part of the **Artemis program**, which intends to bring humans back to the lunar surface, **NASA and the European Space Agency (ESA)** are working together to create a **common time system** for the moon. The project aims to meet the requirement for a common timekeeping system to manage missions from various nations and private organizations.
- **Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang** revealed the company's groundbreaking next-generation AI chip platform, Rubin, set for a 2026 release. The Rubin family, comprising GPUs, CPUs, and networking processors, promises to revolutionize AI capabilities. Notably, Nvidia plans an aggressive shift to annual releases, aiming to keep pace with AI advancements and maintain its market dominance.
- Boeing and NASA are gearing up for the highly anticipated launch of the **Starliner spacecraft's first crewed flight test**, scheduled for **June 5 from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida**. This historic event marks a significant milestone in space exploration, with veteran NASA astronauts Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams aboard the spacecraft.
- ISRO, through its Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (**VSSC**), has introduced the **PraVaHa software**, a **Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD)** tool aimed at facilitating aerodynamic design and analysis for aerospace vehicles.
- A group of teachers and students at the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Dharwad**, directed by **Profs. Sudheer Siddapureddy and Ameer Mulla**, with funding from the **TiHAN Foundation, IIT Hyderabad (NMICPS, Indian government)**, has created a **drone for fire rescue assistance**.
- **Volvo Cars** announces the debut of the **world's first EV battery passport**, which meticulously documents the lineage of **raw materials, components, recycled content, and carbon footprint** for its forthcoming **flagship EX90 SUV**, ahead of the EU rules. Volvo owners can access a simplified version of the passport using a **QR code on the inside of the driver's door**.

- **Nvidia's** remarkable rally to record highs on Wednesday saw the artificial intelligence chipmaker's valuation soar past the \$3 trillion mark, eclipsing Apple and securing its position as the **world's second most valuable company**. This significant shift marks a departure from Silicon Valley's traditional dominance by Apple, particularly since the launch of the iPhone in 2007.
- **Peru and Slovakia** on May 30, signed **NASA's Artemis Accords**, making them the latest in a rapid number of countries to join the U.S.-led agreement on the safe exploration of space. Both countries signed the accords at **NASA's Washington headquarters**, but in separate ceremonies with **Peru** the first to add its name to the accords on May 30 followed by **Slovakia**. **Peru** became **41st** and **Slovakia 42nd** countries to do so.
- **Space agency ISRO** has announced a **joint Indo-French infrared earth observation satellite mission, TRISHNA (Thermal Infra-Red Imaging Satellite for High-Resolution Natural Resource Assessment)**, to **monitor surface temperature and water management around the world**.
- Scientists have discovered a new **species of great ape** which lived **11 million years ago** and only ever grew to the size of a human toddler, making it the smallest known to science. The now-extinct ape species, which has been named **Buronius manfredschmidi**, was uncovered at the **Hammerschmiede fossil site in Bavaria**.
- NASA reassured the public that there was no emergency on the **International Space Station (ISS)** after a medical drill was mistakenly broadcasted, causing alarm on social media. The simulation involved a crew member in distress but was not related to any real situation. NASA clarified that the incident was a training exercise and not an actual emergency.
- **Wipro** has announced the launch of its **Lab45 AI platform**, designed to leverage generative AI (GenAI), machine learning (ML), and deep learning technologies to enhance efficiencies and transform business functions across industries.
- **'Lal', 'Mursan' and 'Hilsa'**. These are the names given to **three craters on the surface of Mars** recently discovered by **Ahmedabad-based Physical Research Laboratory (PRL)**, that hint at the red planet's wet past. Lal has been named after legendary cosmic ray physicist from Varanasi, the late **Professor Devendra Lal**. The other two have been named after **Mursan town in UP's Hathras district**, and **Hilsa town in Nalanda district of Bihar**.
- A **woman-led start-up** has successfully developed an **AI-based tool** that creates a **"robust and multi-faceted authentication system"** by combining facial recognition with gait analysis. This innovative solution marks a **"significant advancement"** in **biometric authentication technology**, offering **"enhanced accuracy and reliability"**.





- **Egypt and Bahrain** have joined **China** as international partners to develop and deliver scientific instruments for the **Chang'e-7 mission**. The Egyptian Space Agency (EgSA), Bahrain's National Space Science Agency, and the Changchun Institute of Optics, Fine Mechanics, and Physics signed a cooperation agreement to jointly develop a **hyperspectral camera** as part of the goal of developing and delivering scientific instruments for the **Chang'e-7 mission**.
- Dhruva Space, a Hyderabad-based space tech startup, has successfully completed its maiden mission with the **Thybolt-1 and Thybolt-2 satellites**. These satellites have securely deorbited after completing **15,000 orbits around Earth**.

- Launched aboard **ISRO's PSLV C54 in November 2022**, this achievement marks a significant milestone for the company.
- **Nvidia**, the startup at the centre of the **artificial intelligence boom**, has become the world's most valuable company, knocking **Microsoft off** the top spot. Nvidia's market **capitalisation hit \$3.335 trillion** on June 18, as shares of the chipmaker rose by **3.5 percent to \$135.58**.
- **SpaceX** has launched NASA's final satellite for the **NOAA program**, enhancing continuous weather monitoring across the **Western Hemisphere**. This launch improves the **US ability to monitor solar flares from eight-hour intervals to every 30 minutes**.

Schemes/ Apps / Portal

National Schemes/ Apps of December 2024

CENTRAL GOVT SCHEMES

Name of Initiative	Ministry/Authority	Year Launched	Purpose	Key Features	Achievements
Mahila Samman Savings Certificate (MSSC)	Ministry of Finance	2023	To provide financial security and empowerment to women and minor girls through a safe and attractive investment option.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eligibility: Women or guardians of minor girls can open accounts. - Deposit Limits: Min ₹1,000, Max ₹2 lakh. - Interest Rate: 7.5% per annum, compounded quarterly. - Tenure: 2 years. - Partial withdrawals (40%) and premature closure allowed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Over 43 lakh accounts opened as of October 2024. - Initiative aligns with broader goals of enhancing financial inclusion and independence of women.
SheSTEM 2024	Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog	2024	To inspire young innovators, promote women in STEM fields, and foster ideas on energy storage solutions through the India-Nordic BEST project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focus Areas: Battery Technology and Energy Storage Systems. - Participants: Students from grades 6-12 across India. - Submission Format: Two-minute video of prototypes or concepts. - Collaboration: Nordic partners like Innovation Norway, Innovation Centre Denmark, and Business Finland. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Over 1,000 submissions received showcasing innovative ideas. - Event highlighted collaboration between India and Nordic countries to tackle sustainability challenges. - Platform encouraged youth to develop STEM-focused solutions for global issues.





Name of Initiative	Ministry/Authority	Year Launched	Purpose	Key Features	Achievements
Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana (PMSGMBY)	Ministry of New and Renewable Energy	2024	To promote domestic rooftop solar installations, streamline processes, and achieve one crore installations by 2027 to boost renewable energy adoption in India.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Installation Growth: 6.3 lakh installations in 9 months (averaging 70,000/month). - Simplified consumer process via PMSuryaghar Portal with GIS-based planning. - Waiving of technical feasibility reports for systems up to 10kW. - Over 9,000 vendors activated. - Affordable financing via Jan Samarth Portal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ₹3,100 crore in subsidies disbursed to 4 lakh consumers as of October 2024. - Integration of 90 DISCOMs and training of over 40,000 personnel for streamlined implementation. - Targets 10 lakh installations by March 2025 and 40 lakh by March 2026.
Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA)	Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY)	2017	To bridge the digital literacy gap in rural India and empower citizens with essential digital skills.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Target: 6 crore rural households. - Training Duration: 20 hours over 10–30 days. - Curriculum: Device use, internet browsing, cashless payments, and online services. - Focus: Non-smartphone users, BPL households, school dropouts. - State Implementing Agencies responsible for execution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 7.35 crore individuals enrolled; 6.39 crore trained; 4.78 crore certified as of March 2024. - Enabled rural participation in cashless transactions and access to online government services. - States like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Maharashtra led with the highest trained candidates.
LIC's Bima Sakhi Yojana					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched LIC's Bima Sakhi Yojana in Panipat, Haryana, to empower women by integrating them into the insurance sector. • The scheme targets women aged 18-70 with at least 10th-grade education, aiming to train 100,000 women in the first year.





Name of Initiative	Ministry/Authority	Year Launched	Purpose	Key Features	Achievements
PM Electric Drive					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants can earn ₹15,000 monthly as LIC agents and receive financial assistance over three years. The initiative promotes women-led participation and aligns with the vision of a Viksit Bharat.
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India is advancing its electric vehicle (EV) ecosystem with the launch of the PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE) scheme, backed by ₹10,900 crore over two years (2024-2026). This initiative aims to boost electric mobility and reduce fossil fuel dependence. Additionally, the third phase of the FAME scheme (FAME-III) will roll out soon, with the goal of making India a global leader in electric mobility and supporting the vision of a 'Viksit Bharat'.

STATE GOVT SCHEMES

Mukhya Mantri Mahila Samman Yojana	Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal launched the Mukhya Mantri Mahila Samman Yojana , aiming to empower women financially by increasing monthly assistance from ₹1,000 to ₹2,100 post-elections. The scheme targets women aged 18+, not in government jobs or paying taxes. Registration starts on December 13, 2024 . The initiative, similar to successful schemes in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra , focuses on financial aid for non-taxpayers and those without government pensions.
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National Schemes/ Apps of November 2024

CENTRAL GOVT SCHEMES

Name of Scheme	Launch Date	Objective	Budget Allocation	Key Details
Pradhan Mantri Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana (PMVKY)	October 28, 2014	Upliftment and inclusion of India's tribal communities through sustainable development.	₹26,135.46 crore (2021-2026)	Targets socio-economic challenges of tribal communities, focusing on essential services, financial assistance, and cultural preservation. Core Components <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojana: Developing 36,428 tribal villages with a ₹7,276 crore budget; each village receives ₹20.38 lakh.





Name of Scheme	Launch Date	Objective	Budget Allocation	Key Details
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PVTG Development: ₹15,000 crore allocated to support housing, healthcare, and education for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups. • Tribal Research Institutes: Funds state research to address tribal socio-cultural needs. • Pre-Matric Scholarships: Financial aid for tribal students (Classes IX-X), with special support for Northeastern states. • Post-Matric Scholarships: Encourages higher education among tribal youth (beyond Class X). • Project Management Units: State-level units for effective tribal program implementation. <p>Additional Initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eklavya Model Residential Schools: Establishing 728 schools for tribal students (VI-XII) by 2026. • Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission: Supports tribal entrepreneurship, focusing on Minor Forest Produce. • Development Action Plan for Scheduled Tribes (DAPST): ₹1.23 lakh crore committed to tribal welfare in education, health, and employment. <p>Outlook</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal: PMVKY aims to uplift tribal communities through integrated support for education, livelihood, and cultural preservation, demonstrating the government's commitment to inclusive development.
PM Vidyalaxmi Scheme	Approved on November 6, 2024	Provides collateral-free, guarantor-free education loans to meritorious students.	₹3,600 crore allocated for 2024-25 to 2030-31.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scheme Approval: Union Cabinet approved on November 6, 2024. • Objective: Collateral-free, guarantor-free education loans for meritorious students in top 860 Quality Higher Education Institutions (QHEIs). • Coverage: Full tuition fees and course-related expenses for students admitted to top 100 NIRF-ranked institutions (overall, category-specific, and domain-specific). • Funding: ₹3,600 crore allocated for 2024-25 to 2030-31. • Eligibility: Students with family income up to ₹8 lakh eligible for 3% interest subvention on loans up to ₹10 lakh during moratorium. • Loan Guarantee: 75% credit guarantee for loans up to ₹7.5 lakh in case of defaults. • Beneficiaries: Over 22 lakh students annually. • Application: Unified portal 'PM-Vidyalaxmi' for loans and interest subvention.
Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)	October 29, 2024	Provide free healthcare coverage for senior citizens aged 70 and above, regardless of income.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In a significant expansion of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Ayushman Vaya Vandana Card on October 29, 2024, providing free healthcare coverage to all senior citizens aged 70 and above, irrespective of income.





Name of Scheme	Launch Date	Objective	Budget Allocation	Key Details
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This extension, rolled out on Ayurveda Day at the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) in New Delhi, enables seniors to avail free treatment worth up to ₹5 lakh annually at AB PMJAY empaneled hospitals. The initiative, however, excludes seniors in Delhi and West Bengal due to non-implementation by these state governments.
Trusted Tour Operator Scheme				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> South Africa has launched the Trusted Tour Operator Scheme (TTOS) to attract more visitors from India and China. The initiative aims to streamline the visa application process, making it quicker and easier for tourists from these countries, especially addressing the low number of Chinese visitors to South Africa compared to other destinations like Australia.
One Day One Genome'				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and the Biotechnology Research and Innovation Council (BRIC) launched the 'One Day One Genome' initiative to map India's microbial wealth. Announced by Amitabh Kant, India's G-20 Sherpa, on November 9, 2024, during BRIC's 1st foundation day at the National Institute of Immunology (NII), the initiative aims to highlight the role of unique bacterial species in India's environment, agriculture, and human health.
Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G)				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Rural Development marked the 8th anniversary of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G) on Awaas Diwas 2024, celebrating its contribution to "Housing for All". Launched in 2016, PMAY-G aims to provide pucca houses with essential amenities to houseless and families in dilapidated homes. The scheme's target has been revised to build 2 crore additional houses by 2029, with a total outlay of ₹3,06,137 crore, including ₹54,500 crore for FY 2024-25. The initiative also focuses on improving rural infrastructure through convergence with other schemes like MGNREGA and the Jal Jeevan Mission.

STATE GOVT SCHEMES

Rajasthan Investment Promotion Scheme (RIPS) 2024	2024	Encourage private investment and boost economic growth in Rajasthan across various sectors.	Provides enhanced financial incentives across a broader range of sectors to attract investments in Rajasthan.
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Deepam 2.0 scheme	Aimed at empowering women by providing them with free gas cylinders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu launch the Deepam 2.0 scheme. Empower women by providing free access to clean cooking energy. Three free gas cylinders per year to women. Promotion of LPG use for healthier cooking. Rs 15,000/year for school-going students. "Thalliki Vandhanam" program for education support.
'Bima Sakhi Yojana'		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On December 9, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch the 'Bima Sakhi Yojana' in Panipat, Haryana, to empower women by creating job opportunities in the insurance sector. Under this scheme, women will work as LIC agents, selling insurance and earning income. This initiative aims to promote women's empowerment, economic independence, and financial literacy across India.
Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government has issued 14 lakh Ayushman Vay Vandana cards to senior citizens aged 70 and above under the Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), as of November 25, 2024. This initiative aims to provide comprehensive healthcare coverage to vulnerable populations, benefiting approximately 6 crore individuals from 4.5 crore families.

APPS & WEB PORTAL

App & Web Portal Name	Launched By	Purpose
Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) and Regulatory Affairs Portal	Union Minister Piyush Goyal	Provides real-time updates on government and CII initiatives to improve business efficiency, transparency, and accountability ; includes a member dashboard.
MY Bharat Portal	Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya	Promotes volunteering and social service during Diwali festivities, engaging over 200,000 volunteers across 500 locations in India.
Mine Opening Permission Module (SWCS)	Ministry of Coal	Streamlines the approval process for opening coal mines via the Single Window Clearance System (SWCS).
Hamara Samvidhan, Hamara Samman Portal	Ministry of Law and Justice	A key resource for constitutional rights, legal literacy, and fundamental duties , commemorating 75 years of India's Republic and Constitution .
TULIP Platform	Union Minister Dr. Virendra Kumar	Empowers marginalized artisans with global e-marketing exposure and sales opportunities, promoting skill development and cultural heritage.
Bhu-Neer Portal	Minister of Jal Shakti Shri C.R. Paatil	Streamlines groundwater regulation processes, enhancing transparency, efficiency, and sustainability in groundwater management.
Child Marriage Free Bharat Portal	Union Minister Smt. Annapurna Devi	Supports the eradication of child marriage , empowering girls through education, health, and safety initiatives aligned with Viksit Bharat by 2047.
VISION Portal	Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh	Uplifts underprivileged youth by promoting education, skill development, and sustainable livelihoods under the Viksit Bharat Initiative for Student Innovation.

National Schemes/ Apps of October 2024

Name of Initiative	Ministry	Year	Purpose
Swachh Bharat Mission	Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs	2014	<p>Swachh Bharat Diwas 2024 Overview</p> <p>Date and Location:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Date: October 2, 2024 (Gandhi Jayanti) Venue: Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi <p>Key Inaugurations:</p> <p>Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate and lay the foundation for projects worth over Rs 9,600 crore related to sanitation and cleanliness, including:</p>





Name of Initiative	Ministry	Year	Purpose
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rs 6,800 crore for urban water and sewage systems under AMRUT and AMRUT 2.0. Rs 1,550 crore for water quality and waste management in Ganga basin areas under the National Mission for Clean Ganga. Rs 1,332 crore for 15 Compressed Biogas (CBG) Plant projects under the GOBARdhan Scheme. <p>Achievements of the Swachh Bharat Mission Decade of Progress: The event will commemorate 10 years of sanitation improvement in India, showcasing the achievements of the Swachh Bharat Mission.</p> <p>Nationwide Participation: The theme ‘Swabhav Swachhata, Sanskaar Swachhata’ has engaged over 17 crore participants in 19.70 lakh programs.</p> <p>Transformations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6.5 lakh Cleanliness Target Units Nearly 1 lakh Safai Mitra Suraksha Shivirs, benefiting 30 lakh Safai Mitras. Over 45 lakh trees planted under the ‘Ek Ped Maa ke Naam’ campaign.
Cruise Bharat Mission	Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways	2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launch Date: October 1, 2024 Location: Mumbai Port Objective: Enhance India’s potential as a global hub for cruise tourism, targeting a doubling of cruise passenger traffic by 2029. <p>Key Focus Areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ocean and harbor cruises River and inland cruises Island cruises <p>Phased Implementation of the Mission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase 1 (October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct studies and master planning. Form cruise alliances with neighboring countries. Modernize existing cruise terminals, marinas, and destinations. Phase 2 (October 1, 2025 – March 31, 2027): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop new cruise terminals, marinas, and destinations. Activate high-potential cruise locations and circuits. Phase 3 (April 1, 2027 – March 31, 2029): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrate all cruise circuits across the Indian Subcontinent. Ensure maturity of the cruise ecosystem and continue infrastructure development. <p>Key Performance Targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sea Cruise Passengers: Increase from 0.5 million in Phase 1 to 1 million by Phase 3. Sea Cruise Calls: Increase from 125 to 500. River Cruise Passengers: Grow from 0.5 million in Phase 1 to 1.5 million by Phase 3. International Cruise Terminals: Expand from 2 in Phase 1 to 10 by Phase 3. River Cruise Terminals: Increase from 50 to 100. <p>Expected Impact and Employment Generation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anticipates a 400% increase in passenger footfall in cruises since 2014.





Name of Initiative	Ministry	Year	Purpose
Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA)	Ministry of Tribal Affairs	2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projected rise in cruise passengers from 460,000 in 2024 to 5 million by 2047. Expected increase in cruise calls from 254 in 2024 to 500 by 2030 and 1,100 by 2047. Initiative aims to create 400,000 jobs in the cruise sector during this period. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launch Date: October 2, 2024 (Mahatma Gandhi's Birth Anniversary) Location: Hazaribagh, Jharkhand Total Outlay: ₹79,156 crores <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central Government Contribution: ₹56,333 crores State Government Contribution: ₹22,823 crores <p>Vision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective: Address critical gaps in social infrastructure, health, education, and livelihood through 25 interventions by 17 line ministries. Goal: Ensure holistic and sustainable development of tribal areas and communities. <p>Coverage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Target: Approximately 63,843 villages benefiting over 5 crore tribal people across 549 districts and 2,911 blocks in 30 States/UTs. <p>Planning and Goals</p> <p>Mission Goals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Developing Enabling Infrastructure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pucca houses for eligible ST households with access to water and electricity (PMAY Gramin, Jal Jeevan Mission, RDSS). Improve village infrastructure with all-weather road connectivity (PMGSY), mobile connectivity (Bharat Net), and health and education infrastructure. Promotion of Economic Empowerment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skill development and entrepreneurship support through training programs (Skill India Mission, JSS). Marketing support via Tribal Multipurpose Marketing Centre (TMMC) and support for FRA Patta holders in agriculture and animal husbandry. Universalization of Access to Good Education: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in schools and higher education and provide affordable quality education (Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan). Establish tribal hostels in schools at district/block levels. Healthy Lives and Dignified Ageing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced access to quality health facilities and improvement of health indicators (IMR, MMR, immunization) through Mobile Medical Units. <p>Supporting Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mapping: Tribal villages will be mapped on the PM Gati Shakti Portal for identifying gaps. Monitoring: Physical and financial progress will be tracked, with best-performing districts receiving awards.





Name of Initiative	Ministry	Year	Purpose
			<p>Supported Schemes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovative Schemes: Based on tribal area needs and stakeholder discussions, innovative schemes include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tribal Home Stay ○ Infrastructure improvements for Government Residential Schools and Hostels ○ Sustainable Livelihood for Forest Right Holders (FRA) ○ Advanced facilities for Sickle Cell Disease diagnosis ○ Tribal Multipurpose Marketing Centre
National Mission on Edible Oils – Oilseeds (NMEO-Oilseeds)	Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare	2024	<p>National Mission on Edible Oils – Oilseeds (NMEO-Oilseeds) Overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval Date: Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. • Aim: To boost domestic oilseed production and achieve self-reliance (Atmanirbhar Bharat) in edible oils. <p>Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production Target: Increase primary oilseed production from 39 million tonnes (2022-23) to 69.7 million tonnes by 2030-31. • Self-Reliance Goal: Achieve self-reliance in oilseed production within 7 years. <p>Background</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Import Dependency: India currently imports 57% of its edible oil demand. • Previous Measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Launched NMEO-OP (Oil Palm) in 2021 with an outlay of ₹11,040 crores. ○ Increased Minimum Support Price (MSP) for oilseeds. ○ Continued Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) for price support. ○ Imposed 20% import duty on edible oils to protect domestic producers. <p>Implementation Period</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duration: 2024-25 to 2030-31. • Financial Outlay: ₹10,103 crores.
National Anubhav Awards Scheme	Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions	2015	<p>National Anubhav Awards Scheme Overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective: Recognize the contributions of retiring and retired government employees by encouraging them to share experiences and insights. • Spearheaded by: Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW), Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions, Government of India. <p>Background</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch Date: March 2015, following the directions of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India. • Platform 'Anubhav': Allows retired government employees to share experiences and significant achievements during their service. • Purpose: Contributes to institutional memory by preserving replicable ideas for future governance challenges. • Recognition: Since inception, 59 Anubhav Awards and 19 Jury Certificates have been awarded.





Name of Initiative	Ministry	Year	Purpose
			<p>Significance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutional Memory: Aims to create a repository of valuable lessons for future governance. • Encouragement for Retired Employees: Motivates retired employees to reflect on their service and share knowledge, fostering a culture of learning and improvement.
Humsafar Policy	Ministry of Road Transport and Highways	2024	<p>Initiative by: Union Minister Nitin Gadkari</p> <p>Objective: Revolutionize travel experience on India's national highways by enhancing infrastructure and services.</p> <p>Key Features of the Humsafar Policy</p> <p>Essential Facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean Toilets: Ensures hygiene and sanitation. • Baby Care Rooms: Supports traveling families. • Wheelchair Provisions: Enhances accessibility for differently-abled travelers. • EV Charging Stations: Promotes sustainable transportation. • Parking Spaces: Adequate parking for various vehicles. • Dormitory Services: Rest facilities at fuel stations for travelers. <p>Vision for Highway Experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a convenient and safe environment for highway users. • Ensure an enjoyable experience for all travelers. • Empower entrepreneurs along the highway network. • Generate employment opportunities and enhance livelihoods for service providers.
PM GatiShakti National Master Plan	Prime Minister's Office	2021	<p>The PM GatiShakti National Master Plan, launched on October 13, 2021, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, marks three years of transformative achievements in India's infrastructure landscape.</p> <p>Key Features</p> <p>Data Integration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrates data from 44 central ministries and 36 states and union territories. • Facilitates better coordination and execution of projects. <p>Major Assessments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 200 major infrastructure projects assessed. • Focus on multimodal connectivity and efficient resource allocation. <p>Social Sector Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies gaps in essential services like healthcare and education. • Ensures infrastructure development benefits underserved areas. • Each state/UT has developed State Master Plans aligned with the national framework. <p>Logistics Performance Improvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India's ranking in the World Bank's Logistics Performance Index improved from 44th in 2018 to 38th in 2023. • Reflects better planning and execution of critical infrastructure projects. <p>Capacity Building</p>





Name of Initiative	Ministry	Year	Purpose
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 20,000 officials trained through workshops and courses on the iGoT platform. Ensures officials can effectively implement the PM GatiShakti framework. <p>Future Directions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plans to provide access to non-sensitive data for non-government users to enhance transparency in infrastructure planning. Focuses on data-driven, sustainable development. <p>Sustainability Goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotes green infrastructure and sustainable logistics solutions. Contributes to India's Net Zero commitment by 2070.
'e-Shram: One Stop Solution' portal	Ministry of Labour & Employment		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgraded e-Shram Portal: Launched by Minister Mansukh Mandaviya to streamline social security access for 300+ million unorganised workers. Data Integration: Consolidates multi-ministry data into a single repository, enabling state and district-wise beneficiary identification. Core Features: Integrates 10 central schemes (e.g., PM Awas Yojana, MGNREGA), simplifying access; 60,000-90,000 workers join daily. State-Level Collaboration: State portal integration emphasized for last-mile connectivity and wider welfare coverage. Future Expansion: Plans to add more welfare schemes to create a holistic social security network for unorganised workers.
Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana	Ministry Of Finance		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced Mudra Loan Limits: Loan ceiling raised from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 20 lakh under a new 'Tarun Plus' category, supporting business expansion for entrepreneurs. Budget Announcement: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the update in the July 2024 Budget to promote entrepreneurship. Original PMMY Scheme: Initiated in April 2015, PMMY offered loans up to Rs 10 lakh for small, non-farm businesses without collateral. Loan Categories: PMMY's three initial categories include Shishu (up to Rs 50,000), Kishore (Rs 50,000 to Rs 5 lakh), and Tarun (up to Rs 10 lakh). Impact on Entrepreneurship: In FY 2023-24, 66.8 million loans worth Rs 5.4 trillion were sanctioned, with a total of Rs 29.79 trillion disbursed since 2015. Improved NPA Rates: NPA for Mudra loans decreased to 3.4% in FY24 from 4.77% in FY21, indicating better loan recovery. Guarantee Support: The 'Tarun Plus' loans will receive coverage under the Credit Guarantee Fund for Micro Units (CGFMU), strengthening assistance for micro and small enterprises.
Pradhan Mantri Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana	Ministry of Tribal Affairs		<p>Pradhan Mantri Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana (PMVKY) Overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launched: October 28, 2014, for tribal community upliftment. Objective: Empower India's tribal communities (8.9% of the population) with essential services and preserve cultural heritage. Budget: ₹26,135.46 crore (2021-2026). Vision: "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas" for sustainable development.





Name of Initiative	Ministry	Year	Purpose
			<p>Six Core Components of PMVKY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojana: Develops 36,428 tribal villages with ₹7,276 crore allocated till 2025-26. PVTG Development: Focus on Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups, improving 15,000 habitations with ₹15,000 crore. Tribal Research Institutes (TRI): Supports state research on tribal welfare. Pre-Matric Scholarships: Financial aid for tribal students in classes IX and X. Post-Matric Scholarships: Supports education for tribal students beyond class X. Administrative Support: State project units for efficient program management. <p>Additional Initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS): Establishes 728 schools by 2026 for tribal students. Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission (PMJVM): Supports tribal entrepreneurship, focusing on Minor Forest Produce. Development Action Plan for Scheduled Tribes (DAPST): Allocates ₹1.23 lakh crore to address tribal needs in education, health, and employment.
Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launch: Introduced on October 29, 2024, by PM Modi under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY). Coverage: Provides free healthcare for all senior citizens aged 70+ with annual benefits up to ₹5 lakh. Eligibility: Available nationwide, regardless of income, except in Delhi and West Bengal due to non-implementation. Economic Relief: Reduces out-of-pocket expenses for families with elderly members by covering hospital costs. Healthcare Milestone: Aims to enhance healthcare access and ease financial burden for households with seniors. Launch Location: Unveiled on Ayurveda Day at the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), New Delhi.

State Schemes/ Apps of October 2024

Name of Initiative	Ministry	Year	Purpose
Mukhya Mantri Nijut Moina (MMNM) Scheme	Government of Assam	2024	<p>The Mukhya Mantri Nijut Moina (MMNM) scheme is a significant initiative launched by the Assam government to promote girl education and reduce child marriage in the state. The scheme provides financial incentives to girl students pursuing higher education, with the aim of empowering them and encouraging them to continue their studies.</p> <p>Key points about the MMNM scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objectives: The scheme aims to empower girls through education and reduce child marriage. Financial incentives: The scheme provides financial incentives to girl students pursuing higher secondary education, graduation courses, post-graduation, and B.Ed. programs. Eligibility: The scheme is open to all girl students in Assam, except for daughters of ministers and MLAs, students who have received scooters under the state government scheme for excelling in HS exams, students enrolled in private colleges and universities, and girl students who are irregular in attendance or involved in undesirable activities.





Name of Initiative	Ministry	Year	Purpose
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding: The scheme is expected to cost the state government Rs. 1,500 crore over the next five years. Impact: The scheme is expected to benefit approximately 10 lakh girl students in Assam and contribute to the reduction of child marriage in the state.
GREEN Meghalaya Plus (GMP)	Meghalaya Government	2024	<p>GREEN Meghalaya Plus (GMP) Scheme Overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launch Date: First week of October 2023 Initiated by: Conrad K Sangma, Chief Minister of Meghalaya Purpose: Conservation and enhancement of forest cover in Meghalaya. <p>Key Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forest Conservation: Offers monetary rewards for protecting forested areas. Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES): Supports villages, communities, clans, or individuals committing to conserve natural forests for a minimum of 30 years. <p>Background</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part of the state's PES program launched in 2022. Aims to expand forest conservation by an additional 50,000 hectares (500 sq km). Over 3,000 individuals and communities have benefited, conserving over 54,000 hectares of natural forest. <p>Changes in PES 2.0</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum Land Requirement: Reduced from 2 hectares to 1 hectare, allowing smaller landowners and communities to participate. Increased Rewards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual reward per hectare increased from ₹15,000 to ₹20,000. Base compensation increased from ₹8,000 to ₹10,000 per hectare per year. <p>Budget Allocation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over ₹44 crore spent in the last two years on forest conservation. ₹200 crore earmarked for future conservation efforts.
Jal-Jagar Initiative	Chhattisgarh Government	2024	<p>Inaugurated By: Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai</p> <p>Location: Ravishankar Reservoir, Gangrel Dam, Dhamtari, Chhattisgarh</p> <p>Purpose: Significant milestone in the state's water conservation initiatives.</p> <p>Objective</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness Raising: Focus on the importance of water and environmental conservation. Showcase Community Efforts: Highlight results of local community-driven water management initiatives. <p>About the Jal-Jagar Initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus: Groundwater recharge in Dhamtari district, addressing critical depletion issues. Community Involvement: Engages local communities and leverages traditional practices. Complement to National Missions: Acts as a grassroots effort alongside larger initiatives like Jal Jeevan Mission. Goal: Achieve broader environmental sustainability in Chhattisgarh.
Maiyaan Samman Yojana	Jharkhand Government	2024	<p>Maiyaan Samman Yojana Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cabinet Decision: Jharkhand's Hemant Soren cabinet increased the monthly honorarium for women under the Maiyaan Samman Yojana from ₹1,000 to ₹2,500. Context: This decision responds to the BJP's Gogo Didi Yojana, which promises ₹2,100 per month to women as part of their election manifesto.





Name of Initiative	Ministry	Year	Purpose
			<p>Key Proposals Approved by the Cabinet</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Netarhat Tourism Development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administrative approval for developing the Netarhat tourism area. Total budget: ₹43.08 crore. Residential Schools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of new residential schools in Kolhan, Chaibasa, and Santhal Pargana districts to enhance educational opportunities. Road Infrastructure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised approval for road reconstruction projects totaling ₹109.16 crore to improve connectivity. Educational Initiatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction of integrated science and mathematics laboratories in elementary schools under the Gyanodya Yojana with a budget of ₹50 crore. Approval of regulations for Multiple Entry-Multiple Exit and Dual Degree Programmes in state universities under the National Education Policy-2020. Support for Orphan and Disabled Students: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launch of the Navothan Scholarship Scheme to provide financial assistance to vulnerable students.
Rajasthan Investment Promotion Scheme (RIPS) 2024	Rajasthan Government		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective: Boost private investment in Rajasthan through enhanced financial incentives. Launch: Introduced ahead of the 'Rising Rajasthan' Global Investment Summit (December 9-11, 2024). Sector Expansion: Focus on sunrise sectors like Aero & Space, Defence, Drones, Semiconductors, Agri-Tech, and Waste Recycling. Additional Support: Includes Construction Equipment, Hydro Storage, Electrolyser Manufacturing, metals, Higher Education, Knowledge Industries, and Vocational Training. Incentives: Increased incentives for IT/ITeS, tourism, and women-led startups. Mega Project Benefits: First three projects in sunrise sectors get an extra 25% on subsidies. New Sector Incentives: Additional 10% subsidy above asset creation for eligible businesses. Economic Goal: Signed MoUs totaling ₹15 lakh crore to position Rajasthan as a top investment destination.

National Schemes/ Apps of September 2024

Name of Initiative	Ministry	Year	Purpose
AgriSURE Scheme	Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare	2024	<p>AgriSURE Scheme Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launched by: Union Minister for Agriculture, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, in New Delhi. Objective: ₹750 crore AgriSURE Fund to support start-ups and rural enterprises with high-risk, tech-driven ventures. Contributors: Government of India, NABARD, and private investors. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AgriSURE Greenathon Awards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Top 3 winners: Greensapio, Krushikanti, Ambrionics. Prize: ₹6 lakhs among 10 finalists for agri-tech innovations. Krishi Nivesh Portal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purpose: Centralized platform for farmers and entrepreneurs to access investment opportunities and government schemes. Focuses on production growth, cost reduction, and crop diversification.





Name of Initiative	Ministry	Year	Purpose
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AIF Excellence Awards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recognized Entities: Top-performing banks (SBI, Canara Bank, HDFC Bank) and states (Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh). ○ Under: Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF).
Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari	Water Resources	2024	<p>Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari Initiative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launched by: PM Narendra Modi in Surat, Gujarat. • Objective: Enhance community involvement in water conservation and promote rainwater harvesting. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aims: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mobilize citizens, local bodies, industries, and stakeholders. ○ Implement large-scale rainwater harvesting. ○ Serve as a model for other states. ○ Promote sustainable water management practices. • Approach: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Community-driven "whole-of-society" approach. ○ Involvement of CSR in water conservation. ○ Showcase Gujarat's success in community-driven water conservation. • Gujarat's Model: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pioneer in water conservation with strong community participation. ○ Innovative water management techniques and effective resource use.
Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maandhan Yojna (PM-KMY)	Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare	2019	<p>Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maandhan Yojna (PM-KMY):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launched: September 12, 2019. • Target Group: Small and Marginal Farmers (SMFs). • Type: Voluntary and contributory old-age pension scheme. • Pension Amount: Rs. 3,000 per month after the age of 60. <p>Key Features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eligibility: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Age between 18 and 40 years. ○ Monthly contribution of Rs. 55 to Rs. 200 based on entry age. • Government Contribution: Central Government matches the farmer's contribution. • Family Pension: Rs. 1,500 per month to the spouse in case of subscriber's death. • Pension Fund Management: Life Insurance Corporation (LIC).
Partnerships for Accelerated Innovation and Research (PAIR)	Education	2023	<p>Partnerships for Accelerated Innovation and Research (PAIR) Programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective: Elevate research capabilities in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) through collaboration. • Focus: Link top-tier research institutions with HEIs where research capabilities are limited. • Framework: "Hub and Spoke" model for mentorship and research enhancement. <p>Importance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current Issue: Less than 1% of India's 40,000 HEIs are engaged in research activities (highlighted by Prof. Karandikar, Dept. of Science & Tech). <p>Working Mechanism:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ANRF (Anusandhan National Research Foundation): Will facilitate collaboration between top-tier and lesser-equipped institutions, creating a mentorship environment. <p>PAIR Programme Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance Research Excellence: Improve research standards across institutions through mentorship.





Name of Initiative	Ministry	Year	Purpose
			<p>MAHA Initiative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mission for Advancement in High-impact Areas (MAHA): Focus on critical research areas such as Electric Vehicle Mobility and Advanced Materials. <p>What is ANRF?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF): Focuses on seeding, growing, and fostering a research culture in fields like natural sciences, technology, environmental sciences, and health. <p>ANRF Initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ATRI (ANRF Translational Research and Innovation): Encourages academia-industry collaboration for accelerated technological innovation. Streamlining Research: Aims to simplify research processes for Indian scientists.
Ayushman Bharat PM Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)	Health	2018	<p>Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY Extension:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coverage for Senior Citizens: All senior citizens aged 70 and above will now be eligible, irrespective of income. Free Treatment: Up to Rs 5 lakh per year, benefiting around 6 crore individuals and 4.5 crore families. <p>New Card for Senior Citizens:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distinct Card: Senior citizens will receive a new card under AB PM-JAY. Top-up for Existing Members: Rs 5 lakh top-up per year for those already covered. Coverage for Non-enrolled: Up to Rs 5 lakh annually on a family basis. <p>Choice of Health Schemes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scheme Options: Senior citizens using CGHS, ECHS, private insurance, or ESI can choose between their current plan or AB PM-JAY.
National Fisheries Development Program (NFDP) portal	Fisheries	2024	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> National Fisheries Development Program (NFDP) Portal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides digital identities to fish industry workers and enterprises. Access to benefits: institutional credit, performance grants, and aquaculture insurance. Launched under PM Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY), a sub-scheme of PM Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY). Climate Resilient Coastal Fishermen Villages (CRCFVs): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of 100 coastal villages into CRCFVs with a Rs. 200 crore budget. Focus: sustainable fishing practices, infrastructure, and climate-smart livelihoods. Drone Technology for Fisheries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pilot project launched for fish transportation using drone technology. Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI) leads the project to enhance inland fisheries management. Centre of Excellence for Seaweed Farming: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mandapam Regional Centre (ICAR-CMFRI) established as a hub for seaweed farming innovation. Focus on refining cultivation techniques and creating a seaweed seed bank. Nucleus Breeding Centres (NBCs) and Incubation Centres: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NBCs for marine and freshwater species to improve seed quality through genetic enhancements. Three incubation centres for fisheries start-ups and cooperatives in Hyderabad, Mumbai, and Kochi. Conservation of Indigenous Species: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion of indigenous species and state fish conservation with booklets released for 22 states/UTs. Encourages protection of local fish species.





Name of Initiative	Ministry	Year	Purpose
			<p>7. Fisheries Infrastructure Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects worth Rs. 721.63 crore announced. Includes 5 Integrated Aqua Parks, world-class fish markets, smart fishing harbors, and aquaculture promotion. <p>8. Vessel Communication & Support System:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 lakh transponders installed on fishing vessels for real-time communication and safety alerts. Launched on August 30, 2024, in Maharashtra. <p>Vision for Fisheries Sector:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viksit Bharat 2047: The government's vision for sustainable growth and enhanced livelihoods for 3 crore fisheries stakeholders under PMMSY.
BioE3 Policy	Biotechnology	2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Innovation-Driven Support: Focuses on R&D and entrepreneurship to accelerate technology development and biotech commercialization. Infrastructure Development: Establishment of Biomanufacturing Hubs, Bio-AI Hubs, and Biofoundry for advanced biotech production and rapid bio-based product testing. Sustainable Growth Focus: Aligns with 'Net Zero' Carbon Economy, 'Lifestyle for Environment', and 'Green Growth' initiatives promoting sustainable bio-based practices. Workforce Development: Aims to expand India's skilled workforce in biotechnology and create new employment opportunities. Strategic Sectors: Targets bio-based chemicals, smart proteins, precision biotherapeutics, climate-resilient agriculture, carbon capture, and marine and space research. High-Performance Biomanufacturing: Combines cutting-edge biotech with traditional manufacturing for production of medicines, materials, and more. Climate Change Mitigation: Focuses on bio-based alternatives to fossil fuels and carbon-neutral manufacturing. Food Security: Enhances crop yields and develops nutrient-rich foods through biotechnology. Human Health: Advances in biopharmaceuticals and solutions for emerging health challenges. Sustainable Future Vision: Promotes circular bioeconomy, innovation-driven growth, and global competitiveness for India's biotech sector.
Mission Mausam	Earth Sciences	2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mission Approval: Approved by Union Cabinet on September 11, 2024, with a ₹2,000 crore outlay over two years, led by the Ministry of Earth Sciences. Key Objectives: Focuses on accuracy in weather forecasting, advanced modelling, improved radar and satellite technology, and precise agromet forecasts. Implementing Bodies: Led by India Meteorological Department (IMD), Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, and National Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasting. Technology Integration: Incorporates AI, machine learning, and cutting-edge observational systems for enhanced weather prediction. Forecasting Challenges: Highlights need for improvement after events like Delhi rainfall on June 28, 2024, showing limitations in single-day rain forecasting. Current Accuracy Levels: IMD reported 80% accuracy for daily forecasts and 60% for five-day forecasts; improved to 88% in July with better data systems. Expected Outcomes: Enhanced accuracy in weather advisories and nowcast technologies within 5-6 years, upgrading radars and automatic weather stations for better data.
SEMICON India 2024	Electronics	2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Event Launch: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated SEMICON India 2024 at India Expo Mart, Greater Noida on September 11, 2024.





Name of Initiative	Ministry	Year	Purpose
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key Message: PM Modi emphasized India's readiness for the semiconductor industry, stating, "In 21st-century India, the chips are never down." India's Semiconductor Vision: Focused on three-dimensional power—reformist government, growing manufacturing base, and aspirational market. Workforce Development: India created a workforce of 85,000 professionals in semiconductor design with a research fund of Rs 1 trillion. Government Support: India offers 50% funding for semiconductor facilities and initiatives for critical mineral security. International Collaborations: India's partnerships include Japan, Singapore, U.S., and initiatives like the QUAD Semiconductor Supply Chain. Future Goals: Plans to grow electronics sector from \$150 billion to \$500 billion by decade's end, creating 6 million jobs. Sector Growth: India's rise in mobile phone production and 5G technology highlighted as success stories. Global Leadership: India's role as Vice Chair of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework's Supply Chain Council and commitment to a resilient global supply chain.
Hydro Electric Projects (HEP) Budget Support Scheme	Power	2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cabinet Approval: Chaired by PM Narendra Modi, approved Ministry of Power's proposal for Enabling Infrastructure for Hydro Electric Projects (HEP) with Rs. 12,461 crore outlay. Time Period: Implementation from FY 2024-25 to 2031-32. Scope of Spending: Focus on components like transmission lines, ropeways, railway siding, and communication infrastructure (excluding roads and bridges). Capacity Goal: Budgetary support for 31350 MW cumulative capacity over 2024-25 to 2031-32. Eligibility: Applicable to all Hydro Power Projects over 25 MW, including private sector projects and Pumped Storage Projects (PSPs). PSP Capacity: Support for a cumulative 15,000 MW of PSP capacity under the scheme. <p>Budgetary Support per Capacity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rs. 1 crore/MW for projects up to 200 MW. Rs. 200 crore + Rs. 0.75 crore/MW for projects exceeding 200 MW. Up to Rs. 1.5 crore/MW in exceptional cases with sufficient justification. <p>Benefits: Faster HEP development, improved infrastructure in remote areas, direct and indirect employment, entrepreneurial opportunities in transportation, tourism, and small businesses, and fresh investments into the hydro power sector.</p>
PM-eBus Sewa-Payment Security Mechanism (PSM)	Transport	2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cabinet Approval: Chaired by PM Narendra Modi, approved the PM-eBus Sewa-PSM Scheme with a budget of INR 3,435.33 crore. Time Period: Implementation from FY 2024-25 to FY 2028-29. Objective: Support deployment of over 38,000 e-buses, ensuring operation for up to 12 years post-deployment. Funding Mechanism: Uses a Public Private Partnership (PPP) model on a Gross Cost Contract (GCC) basis, eliminating initial bus costs for Public Transport Authorities (PTAs). OEMs and Operators: Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) and operators will procure and manage e-buses, with monthly payments made by PTAs. Payment Security: A dedicated fund managed by Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL) to cover payment defaults, recouped later from PTAs or states/UTs.





Name of Initiative	Ministry	Year	Purpose
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Impact: Transition from diesel/CNG buses to e-buses aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and fossil fuel consumption, supporting the Atmanirbhar Bharat vision. Related Initiative: Approval of FAME-III Scheme (PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement) with a budget of INR 10,900 crore to support adoption of 24.79 lakh electric two-wheelers, 3.16 lakh electric three-wheelers, 14,028 e-buses, and funding for public charging stations, electric trucks, and e-ambulances.
PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE)	Transport	2024	<p>PM-eBus Sewa-Payment Security Mechanism (PSM) Scheme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval: By Union Cabinet, chaired by PM Narendra Modi. Budget: INR 3,435.33 crore. Timeframe: FY 2024-25 to FY 2028-29. <p>Scheme Details</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective: Deploy over 38,000 e-buses; operation guaranteed for up to 12 years. Funding Mechanism: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Private Partnership (PPP) on a Gross Cost Contract (GCC) model. PTAs do not pay initial costs; OEMs and operators manage e-buses with monthly payments.
Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)	Fisheries	2020	<p>Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launched: 2020 to transform India's fisheries sector. Budget: Rs. 20,050 crore from 2020-21 to 2024-25, targeting inland fisheries. Focus: Enhancing fish production, productivity, and supporting micro and small enterprises. <p>4th Anniversary Highlights (September 2024)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NFDP Portal: Launched for credit and aquaculture insurance. Fisheries Clusters: Developed SOPs for pearl, ornamental, and seaweed cultivation. Climate Resilience: Guidelines for 100 coastal villages with Rs. 200 crore allocation. Drone Pilot: Testing drone technology for fish transportation. Research Centers: Establishment of centers for seaweed farming and breeding. Start-Up Support: Three incubation centers for 100 fisheries start-ups. Indigenous Species: Promoting state fish in 22 states/UTs. Project Funding: Rs. 721.63 crore allocated for integrated aqua parks and smart harbors. <p>Scheme Structure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central Sector Scheme: Fully funded by the Central Government. Centrally Sponsored Scheme: Supported by federal government; focuses on production, infrastructure, and regulation. <p>Beneficiaries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Target Groups: Fishers, fish farmers, cooperatives, entrepreneurs, and vulnerable communities. <p>Economic Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employment: Supports 30 million people. GVA Contribution: About 1.09% to overall GVA and 6.724% to agricultural GVA. Production Rank: India is the third-largest fish producer globally. <p>Additional Initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FIDF: Rs. 7,522.48 crore fund for infrastructure development with 3% interest subvention. KCC: Extended to fishers since FY 2018-19. <p>Objectives of PMMSY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable Growth: Harness fisheries potential inclusively. Production Goals: Increase fish production and modernize value chains. Income Generation: Double incomes and ensure economic security for fishers.





Name of Initiative	Ministry	Year	Purpose
Bharat Startup Knowledge Access Registry (BHASKAR)	Commerce and Industry	2024	<p>DPIIT's BHASKAR is a digital platform under Startup India that centralizes resources, networking, and collaboration opportunities for India's startup ecosystem stakeholders through unique IDs and streamlined access.</p> <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital platform by DPIIT under Startup India initiative • Connects startups, investors, mentors & service providers • Features unique BHASKAR IDs for personalized access • Offers centralized resource hub & search functionality • Aims to boost India's global innovation leadership position
NPS Vatsalya Scheme	Finance	2024	<p>NPS Vatsalya is a new pension scheme launched by FM Nirmala Sitharaman enabling parents to invest in their children's retirement fund from an early age through PFRDA-managed market-linked securities.</p> <p>Key Features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extension of existing National Pension Scheme (NPS) • Minimum investment of Rs 1,000 per year • Market-linked investments in equities and bonds • Focuses on long-term wealth creation through compounding • Open for children from birth to 18 years <p>Withdrawal Rules:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partial withdrawal (25%) allowed after 3 years • At age 18: Full withdrawal up to Rs 2.5 lakh • Above Rs 2.5 lakh: 20% withdrawal + 80% annuity • On death: Entire corpus goes to nominee/guardian <p>About NPS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launched on January 1, 2004 • Initially for government recruits • Extended to all citizens from May 1, 2009 • Aims to provide regular post-retirement income
Subhadra Scheme	Women and Child Development	2024	<p>Subhadra Scheme, launched by PM Narendra Modi in Odisha, provides Rs 10,000 annual financial assistance to one crore women aged 21-60 years, promoting economic independence.</p> <p>Key Features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Named after Goddess Subhadra • Bi-annual payments of Rs 5,000 each on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rakhi Purnima ○ International Women's Day • Duration: 2024-25 to 2028-29 • Total budget: Rs 55,825 crore <p>Implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires Aadhaar-enabled accounts • Mandatory e-KYC • Special Subhadra Debit Card • Rs 500 bonus for top 100 digital transactions users <p>Exclusions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well-off families • Government employees • Income tax payers • Recipients of Rs 1,500 monthly aid





Name of Initiative	Ministry	Year	Purpose
Atal Pension Yojana (APY)	Finance	2015	<p>Atal Pension Yojana (APY), launched in 2015, has reached 7 crore subscribers with a Rs 35,149 crore corpus, providing guaranteed monthly pensions of Rs 1,000-5,000 to unorganized sector workers.</p> <p>Key Features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age eligibility: 18-40 years • Contribution period: Till age 60 • Guaranteed pension starts at age 60 • Current subscribers: 6.9 crore • Total corpus: Rs 35,149 crore <p>Benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly pension: Rs 1,000 to Rs 5,000 • Spouse continues to receive pension • Nominee receives corpus after both deaths <p>Scheme Details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launched by Government of India • Focuses on unorganized sector • Regular contributions till age 60 • Guaranteed returns post-retirement • Complete financial security for family
One Nation One Election - ONOE	Home Affairs	2024	<p>The Union Cabinet approved High-Level Committee's recommendations on One Nation One Election (ONOE), chaired by former President Ram Nath Kovind, proposing simultaneous elections for Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.</p> <p>Key Features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two-phase implementation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Phase 1: Simultaneous Lok Sabha & Assembly elections ○ Phase 2: Local body elections within 100 days • Requires common electoral roll • Based on 1951-1967 simultaneous election model <p>Constitutional Requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needs Article 368(2) amendments • Requires Special Majority (2/3rd) • Current requirement: 362 votes in Lok Sabha • State legislatures' ratification needed <p>Challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logistical & financial issues • Handling mid-term dissolutions • Managing no-confidence situations • Regional diversity considerations
PM-AASHA Scheme	Agriculture	2018	<p>Union Cabinet approved multiple proposals worth ₹60,000 crore, including Chandrayaan-4, PM-AASHA scheme reforms, and One Nation, One Poll implementation, along with fertilizer subsidies for 2024-25.</p> <p>Key Allocations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PM-AASHA: ₹35,000 crore • P&K Fertilizer subsidy: ₹24,474.53 crore • Chandrayaan-4: ₹2,104.06 crore • Venus Mission: ₹1,236 crore <p>PM-AASHA Reforms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Merged schemes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Price Stabilisation Fund ○ Price Support Scheme ○ Market Intervention Scheme





Name of Initiative	Ministry	Year	Purpose
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced guarantees: ₹45,000 crore Increased coverage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oilseeds: 25% to 40% Tur, urad, masur: 100% <p>Space Initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chandrayaan-4: Moon landing technology Venus Orbiter Mission: Scientific exploration
Bio-RIDE Scheme	Biotechnology	2024	<p>The Union Cabinet approved Bio-RIDE scheme with ₹9,197 crore outlay for 2021-22 to 2025-26, merging existing biotech programs and introducing Bio-manufacturing and Bio-foundry component to boost research and entrepreneurship.</p> <p>Key Components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Merger of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biotechnology R&D Industrial & Entrepreneurship Development New Bio-manufacturing & Bio-foundry <p>Focus Areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Synthetic biology Bio-pharmaceuticals Bio-energy Bio-plastics Sustainable bio-manufacturing <p>Scheme Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support research & innovation Promote bio-entrepreneurship Provide seed funding Offer incubation support Enable academic-industry collaboration Strengthen global biotech position
Swachh Bharat Abhiyan	Urban Development	2014	<p>Swachhata Hi Seva 2024 campaign marks 10 years of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, launched with theme 'Swabhav Swachhata – Sanskaar Swachhata' by Ministry of Jal Shakti and MoHUA.</p> <p>About Swachh Bharat Mission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launched in 2014 by PM Modi Two phases: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase 1: Till October 2019 Phase 2: 2020-21 to 2024-25 Focus: Cleanliness, sanitation, and open defecation <p>SHS 2024 Key Pillars:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cleanliness Target Units (CTUs) Swachhata Mein Jan Bhagidari Safai Mitra Suraksha Shivirs <p>Campaign Launch:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location: Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan
Pradhan Mantri Janatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan (PM-JUGA)	Tribal Affairs	2023	<p>PM-JUGA launched with Rs. 79,156 crore outlay over 5 years to improve tribal communities' socio-economic conditions, targeting 63,000 villages and 5 crore tribal people across 30 states/UTs.</p> <p>Key Coverage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 549 districts 2,740 blocks 700+ ST communities 75 PVTGs 10.45 crore ST population





Name of Initiative	Ministry	Year	Purpose
			<p>Implementation Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 interventions by 17 ministries • Uses DAPST funding • Gati Shakti Portal mapping • District-level awards <p>Major Goals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Infrastructure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PMAY-Gramin housing ○ Jal Jeevan water ○ PMJAY healthcare ○ PMGSY roads 2. Economic Empowerment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Skill development ○ 100 TMMCs ○ FRA support 3. Education: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increase GER ○ Tribal hostels 4. Healthcare: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Improve IMR, MMR ○ Mobile Medical Units ○ Sickle Cell diagnosis <p>Special Initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tribal Home Stay: ₹5 lakh support • FRA holders: 22 lakh beneficiaries • PM-Shri school upgrades
Ayushman Bharat PM-Jay Jan Arogya Yojana (ABPMJ)	Health	2018	<p>Anniversary: Marked the 6th anniversary of the AB-PM-JAY scheme introduced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.</p> <p>About AB-PM-JAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World's Largest Health Insurance: Fully financed by the government, covering secondary and tertiary care. • Launched: 2018 with an insured sum of ₹5 lakh per family. • Health Benefit Packages: Covers surgery, medical and daycare treatments, medicines, and diagnostics. <p>Beneficiaries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entitlement-Based Scheme: Targets beneficiaries identified by the latest Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) data. • Flexibility for States/UTs: Allows use of similar socio-economic family databases for untagged SECC families. <p>Funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding Share: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 60:40 for all states and UTs with their own legislature. ○ 90:10 for Northeast states, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand. ○ 100% Central Funding for UTs without legislature. <p>Nodal Agency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Health Authority (NHA): Established as an autonomous entity under the Society Registration Act, 1860 for effective implementation. • State Health Agency (SHA): The apex body for implementing AB-PM-JAY at the state level. <p>Number Game</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eligibility Expansion: All senior citizens aged 70 years and above, regardless of socio-economic status, are now eligible.





Name of Initiative	Ministry	Year	Purpose
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coverage: Benefits provided to 55 crore individuals (12.34 crore families). • Comprehensive Coverage: All eligible family members are covered, regardless of age. • Hospital Admissions: 7.37 crore hospital admissions covered, with 49% being women beneficiaries. • Public Benefit: Over ₹1 lakh crore benefited under the scheme.
CM-SATH Scheme	Education	2024	<p>Chief Minister Dr. Manik Saha launched the CM-SATH scheme to enhance educational prospects for the state's brightest students. The scheme aims to provide financial support for higher education, reflecting the state government's commitment to quality education.</p> <p>Main Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulate educational policies and programs. • Ensure implementation in a real sense. • Guarantee quality education and learning processes. • Support distressed, poor, tribal people, women, and minority sections of society. • Provide financial assistance and scholarships. • Implement the National Education Policy in educational institutions. <p>Financial Assistance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The scheme will support 200 students who excelled in Madhyamik and HS+2 examinations from the Tripura Board of Secondary Education. • Top 100 Madhyamik students will receive financial assistance for two years. • 100 higher secondary students will be supported for three years with the same benefit. • Each beneficiary will receive a monthly stipend of ₹5,000 to ensure uninterrupted studies. <p>Selection of Students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beneficiaries will be selected from various administrative levels: 152 from block level, 12 from Nagar Panchayats, 26 from Municipality, and 10 from Agartala Municipality. • District Education Officers will ensure fairness in student selection. <p>Budget:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The state's financial commitment includes ₹1.2 crore in the first year, ₹2.4 crore in the second year, and ₹3 crore annually from the third year onwards.
Women in Space Leadership (WiSLP) initiative	Science and Technology	2024	<p>The Department of Science and Technology (DST) in India, in collaboration with the British Council, launched the initiative "A Women in Space Leadership" (WiSLP) as part of the UK-India Education and Research Initiative (UKIERI).</p> <p>Focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The initiative aims to support institutions in strengthening gender-inclusive practices to foster women's leadership in space sciences through a strategic leadership framework. • It involves building sustainable mentoring networks and enhancing scientific innovation by integrating a gender perspective in areas like astrophysics and telecommunications.
Paryatan Mitra and Paryatan Didi	Tourism	2024	<p>On World Tourism Day, the Ministry of Tourism launched the initiatives "Paryatan Mitra" and "Paryatan Didi" to promote responsible tourism and enhance tourist experiences across India.</p> <p>Key Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision, the initiative aims to promote tourism as a means of social inclusion, employment, and economic growth.





Name of Initiative	Ministry	Year	Purpose
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focuses on training individuals in hospitality, safety, and sustainability, while emphasizing cleanliness and a positive tourist experience. <p>Pilot Locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The program was piloted in six tourist destinations: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Orchha, Madhya Pradesh Gandikota, Andhra Pradesh Bodh Gaya, Bihar Aizawl, Mizoram Jodhpur, Rajasthan Sri Vijaya Puram, Andaman & Nicobar Islands <p>Role of Locals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local stakeholders, including cab drivers, hotel staff, tour guides, street vendors, and police personnel, are trained to act as “Paryatan Mitras”, enhancing the tourist experience through storytelling and local pride. <p>Training Focus Areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants receive training in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tourism-specific skills: Heritage walks, food tours, craft experiences, homestays, and nature treks. Hospitality and Sustainability: Aligning with the philosophy of ‘Athithi Devo Bhava’. Digital Literacy: Ensuring visibility of new tourism products to global audiences. <p>Employment and Empowerment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The initiative creates employment opportunities, especially for women and youth, enabling them to become homestay operators, food experience providers, and tour guides. Since the pilot launch, around 3,000 individuals have been trained.

National Schemes/ Apps of August 2024

Name of Initiative	Ministry	Year	Purpose
Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana– National Rural Livelihoods Mission	Ministry of Rural Development	2011	<p>Empowering women by promoting design skills and creating employment opportunities.</p> <p>Initiative Overview:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Million Designers, Billion Dreams aims to enhance the capacity of rural leaders, frontline change agents, and village entrepreneurs with skills for creating impactful, scalable solutions. <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The program seeks to enhance proficiency in design frameworks to drive systems change, promote collaboration among diverse stakeholders, and foster confidence and agency for shaping better futures through creativity and ownership. <p>Expected Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased number of individuals with systems design know-how, driving innovation; development of solutions to improve quality of life and promote economic growth; adoption of sustainable practices addressing environmental, social, and economic challenges; positioning India as a global leader in design and innovation.





Name of Initiative	Ministry	Year	Purpose
			<p>Aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Million Designers, Billion Dreams aims to revolutionize the approach to societal challenges, empowering a new generation of rural leaders to drive sustainable development across India.
Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana	Department of Post, Ministry of Communication	2024	<p>The Department of Post under the Union Ministry of Communication launched the Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana to promote research and scholarship in philately among students across India.</p> <p>About Philately:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Philately involves the collection and study of postage stamps and related products, including acquiring, organizing, cataloguing, and maintaining stamps. <p>Key Details of Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eligibility: Open to students of classes VI, VII, VIII, and IX from recognized schools; must be members of a philately club or hold a Philately Deposit Account. Scholarships: A total of 920 scholarships will be awarded nationwide, with each postal circle able to grant up to 40 scholarships (10 per eligible class). Scholarship Amount: Each scholarship is worth ₹6000 per year, paid quarterly. Selection: Scholarships are awarded annually; students can reapply the following year if they meet the criteria. Philately Mentor: A mentor will be assigned to guide selected students and help establish school-level philately clubs. <p>Oversight:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Union Minister for Communication Jyotiraditya M. Scindia oversees the implementation of this initiative.
Vigyan Dhara	Department of Science and Technology (DST)	2024	<p>The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the continuation of three umbrella schemes into a unified central sector scheme called 'Vigyan Dhara' under the Department of Science and Technology (DST).</p> <p>Key Components of Vigyan Dhara:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> S&T Institutional and Human Capacity Building: Strengthening S&T infrastructure by fostering well-equipped R&D labs in academic institutions. Research and Development (R&D): Promoting research in areas like basic research, sustainable energy, and water, with international collaboration. Innovation, Technology Development, and Deployment: Supporting innovations across all levels, from school to higher education, industries, and startups. <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The primary objective of 'Vigyan Dhara' is to promote S&T capacity building, research, innovation, and technology development, while enhancing participation in Science and Technology, especially among women. <p>Alignment with National Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The programs under 'Vigyan Dhara' align with DST's 5-year goals towards realizing the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 and adhere to global standards while focusing on national priorities through the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF). <p>Background:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The DST, as the nodal department for S&T activities in India, consolidated three central sector umbrella schemes into the unified 'Vigyan Dhara' scheme.





Name of Initiative	Ministry	Year	Purpose
			<p>Vigyan Dhara Scheme: Key Points in Short:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unified Scheme: Merges three existing DST schemes: S&T Institutional and Human Capacity Building, Research and Development, and Innovation, Technology Development, and Deployment. • Outlay: ₹10,579.84 crore for 2021-26 under the 15th Finance Commission period. • Objectives: Enhance S&T capacity building, promote research, innovation, and technology development, and strengthen the Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) ecosystem. • Focus Areas: Includes basic research, sustainable energy, water resources, international collaboration, and increasing women's participation in S&T. • Alignment: Supports the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 and aligns with national priorities and the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF).
SPICED Scheme	Spices Board of India	2024	<p>The Spices Board of India has introduced the SPICED scheme, officially named 'Sustainability in Spice Sector through Progressive, Innovative and Collaborative Interventions for Export Development', to enhance spice exports and productivity.</p> <p>Objective and Focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The primary goal of SPICED is to significantly improve the export of spices and value-added spice products, upgrade post-harvest quality to meet international standards, and enhance cardamom productivity. <p>Cardamom Productivity Programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific initiatives under SPICED include replanting efforts and quality production programs for both small and large cardamom varieties to boost cardamom yields and ensure high standards of product quality for export markets.
Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)	Government of India	2014	<p>The Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), launched on 28th August 2014 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, completes nine years of successful implementation as a key initiative for financial inclusion in India.</p> <p>Nine Years of Achievements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 50 crore individuals have joined the formal banking system through Jan Dhan Accounts, with 55.5% belonging to women; 67% of accounts are from rural and semi-urban areas, with cumulative deposits exceeding ₹2 lakh crore. • Approximately 34 crore RuPay cards issued, each with a ₹2 lakh accident insurance cover. • PMJDY has reduced financial untouchability, increasing access to credit, insurance, and pensions for marginalized sections. • Integration with Aadhaar and mobile technology has facilitated seamless transfer of government benefits. <p>Scheme Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PMJDY provides accessible financial services like banking, savings accounts, remittance, credit, insurance, and pensions. <p>Initial Features and Pillars:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PMJDY is built on six pillars, including universal access to banking services and a financial literacy program. <p>Adaptive Approaches for Success:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The scheme adapted strategies like online account opening, interoperability through RuPay cards, and simplified KYC procedures.





Name of Initiative	Ministry	Year	Purpose
			<p>Impact and Transformative Reach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PMJDY has been pivotal for various people-centric economic initiatives, including direct benefit transfers during the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring assistance reaches intended recipients.
SHe-Box Portal	Ministry of Women and Child Development	2024	<p>Union Minister of Women and Child Development, Annapurna Devi, launched the SHe-Box portal, a centralized platform to make workplaces safer for women by addressing complaints of sexual harassment.</p> <p>Centralized Complaint Management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SHe-Box portal acts as a centralized repository for information on Internal Committees (ICs) and Local Committees (LCs) across the government and private sectors, allowing women to file complaints, track their status, and ensure timely processing by ICs with real-time monitoring. <p>Significance of the Initiative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annapurna Devi highlighted the portal's role in creating a secure and inclusive work environment for women, supporting the government's vision of "Viksit Bharat" by 2047. <p>Additional Launches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry also introduced a newly developed website to enhance digital engagement with national and global audiences, accessible via the SHe-Box Portal and Ministry Website.

States Schemes of August 2024

Name of Initiative	Ministry	Year	Purpose
Mukhyamantri Maiyaan Samman Yojana	Government of Jharkhand	2024	<p>Mukhyamantri Maiyaan Samman Yojana: A major welfare scheme launched by the Government of Jharkhand, aimed at empowering women in the state. Launch Date: Set to be officially launched on August 16, 2024.</p> <p>Evolution of the Scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An evolved version of the earlier Jharkhand Behan Beti Swavalamban Protsahan Yojana. Represents a rebranding and enhancement focused on women's welfare. <p>Objectives of the Scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women's Empowerment: Aims to strengthen financial independence of women. Educational Enhancement: Supports access to education for women. Health and Nutrition: Expected to improve health and nutrition outcomes. Economic Self-Reliance: Encourages economic self-reliance by providing financial support directly to women. <p>Implementation Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Special Enrollment Camps: From August 3-10, 2024, camps will be set up across all panchayats and wards in Jharkhand to help women enroll. Accessibility: Ensures participation even in remote areas. <p>Scheme Details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT): Ensures transparency and efficiency in distributing funds. Monthly Benefit: Eligible women will receive Rs. 1,000 per month directly into their bank accounts. First Installment: Overseen by Chief Minister Hemant Soren and Minister Baby Devi on August 16, 2024. <p>Eligibility Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Age Requirement: Women aged 21 to 50 years are eligible.





			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income Threshold: Household annual income should be less than Rs. 8 lakhs. <p>Scope and Impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beneficiary Estimate: Around 48 lakh women are expected to benefit. • Financial Cost: The government will incur around Rs. 4,000 crore per month to fund the scheme.
Subhadra Scheme	Government of Odisha	2024	<p>Subhadra Scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Announced by: Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Majhi under the BJP government. • Financial Assistance: Promises ₹50,000 to one crore women aged 21 to 60 over the next five years. • Total Budget: ₹55,825 crore allocated for the scheme. • Annual Installments: ₹10,000 per year, paid in two installments of ₹5,000 each on Rakhi Purnima and International Women's Day. <p>Scheme Details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duration: From 2024-25 to 2028-29. • Payments: Made directly to beneficiaries' Aadhaar-enabled bank accounts via the Aadhaar Payment Bridge System (APBS). • Subhadra Debit Card: Issued to beneficiaries. • Digital Incentive: An additional ₹500 incentive to 100 beneficiaries with the highest digital transactions in each gram panchayat and urban local body. <p>Eligibility Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excluded: Women from economically privileged backgrounds, government employees, and income tax payees are not eligible. • Focus: To ensure transparency and encourage digital transactions among beneficiaries.

National Schemes/ Apps of July 2024

Name of Initiative	Ministry	Year	Purpose
eSankhyiki Portal	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)	2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launched by: The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI). • Purpose: To revolutionize data accessibility and enhance the user experience. • Target Audience: Designed for planners, policymakers, researchers, and the general public. • Objective: To centralize and streamline access to key national statistical data.
NIRMAN Portal	Ministry of Coal and Mines	2024	<p>NIRMAN Portal Overview:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inaugurated by: Union Minister for Coal and Mines, Shri G Kishan Reddy. • Location: New Delhi. • Aligned with: PM Modi's "Mission Karmayogi". • CSR Initiative: Launched by Coal India Limited. <p>Financial Support for UPSC Aspirants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target Group: Youth from Coal India's operational districts who cleared the UPSC Preliminary exams in 2024. <p>Eligibility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Candidates from SC, ST, female, or third gender categories. ○ Annual family income below ₹8 lakhs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Offered: ₹1,00,000 for eligible candidates. • Focus: Promotes transparency and digital inclusivity, reflecting Digital India's vision.
Sampoornata Abhiyan	NITI Aayog	2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch of Sampoornata Abhiyan on July 4, 2024 - a 3-month development campaign by NITI Aayog





Name of Initiative	Ministry	Year	Purpose
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targets 112 Aspirational Districts and 500 Aspirational Blocks across India • Focus on 6 Block indicators: Antenatal care, Diabetes screening, Hypertension checks, Nutrition, Soil cards, SHG funds • Focus on 6 District indicators: Antenatal care, Nutrition, Child vaccines, Soil cards, School power, Textbook delivery • Monthly progress tracking with detailed action plans and field monitoring • Collaboration between NITI Aayog, Central Ministries, and State governments • Part of larger ADP (started 2018, 112 districts) and ABP (started 2023, 500 blocks) • Aims for complete saturation in key development metrics for inclusive growth • Covers health, education, agriculture, infrastructure and social development • Success will create model for nationwide development replication
SEHER Program	Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) and TransUnion CIBIL	2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch: SEHER was launched by WEP and TransUnion CIBIL to empower women entrepreneurs in India. • Objective: To address financial awareness as a major hurdle for MSME development by educating women on finance aspects, including CIBIL Rank and commercial credit reports. • Significance of Financial Literacy: Financial unawareness is a significant barrier for MSME growth. • Impact: SEHER aims to enhance women's financial knowledge and skills for managing businesses and achieving sustained growth, contributing to India's USD 5 trillion economy target. • Current State and Potential of Women Entrepreneurs: India has 63 million MSMEs, with 20.5% being women-owned. Accelerating women's entrepreneurship could create over 30 million new women-owned enterprises and 150 to 170 million jobs. • WEP and TransUnion CIBIL Initiatives: SEHER will provide personalized resources and tools for financial literacy to women entrepreneurs, promoting good credit history and CIBIL scores. • About WEP: Incubated in NITI Aayog in 2018, WEP aims to empower women entrepreneurs by overcoming information asymmetry and offering support in entrepreneurship promotion, finance access, market linkages, training, mentoring, and business development services. • About TransUnion CIBIL: Provides comprehensive financial solutions, enabling economic opportunities and personal empowerment. • Financing Women Collaborative (FWC): New collaborations to support women entrepreneurs in Maharashtra, MoU with GroW Network, and the launch of SEHER and Shine programs to improve credit readiness and access for women-led enterprises.
Project PARI (Public Art of India)	Ministry of Culture	2024	<p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Overview: Project PARI is an initiative to blend India's millennia-old artistic heritage with modern themes and techniques, creating public art installations across the country. • First Intervention: The project's initial phase took place in Delhi during the 46th session of the World Heritage Committee. • Artistic Forms: Over 150 visual artists created wall paintings, murals, sculptures, and installations inspired by traditional Indian art forms like Phad, Thangka, Miniature, Gond, Tanjore, Kalamkari, and more. • Themes and Inspirations: The artworks draw inspiration from nature, Natyashastra, Gandhi, Indian toys, hospitality, ancient knowledge, Naad, Harmony of Life, Kalpataru, and World Heritage Sites.





Name of Initiative	Ministry	Year	Purpose
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusivity and Engagement: Project PARI aims to democratize art by integrating it into public spaces, fostering a shared cultural identity and enhancing social cohesion. Women artists play a significant role in the project, highlighting India's NARI SHAKTI. • Call to Action: Join the celebrations by taking a selfie with a Project PARI creation and sharing your pictures on social media with the hashtag #ProjectPARI.
Agri Fund for Start-Ups & Rural Enterprises (AgriSURE)	Government of India	2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose: The Government of India is launching AgriSURE to support start-ups and agripreneurs through investments in Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) and direct equity support. • Fund Structure: AgriSURE is a Rs 750 crore Category-II AIF that will offer both equity and debt support to high-risk, high-impact activities in the agriculture value chain. • Focus: The fund will focus on innovation in agriculture, enhancing the farm produce value chain, creating rural infrastructure, generating employment, and supporting Farmers Producer Organizations (FPOs). • NABARD's Role: NABARD will be the Fund manager of AgriSURE. • AgriSURE Greenathon 2024: NABARD has launched a hackathon to address challenges in smart agriculture, agri-waste management, and regenerative agriculture.
Hamara Samvidhan Hamara Samman Campaign	Ministry of Law and Justice	2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch: Vice-President Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar launched the nationwide campaign 'Hamara Samvidhan, Hamara Samman' to commemorate India's 75th year as a Republic. • Objective: To reinforce commitment to constitutional principles and foster pride and responsibility among citizens. • Nyaya Setu: The Vice-President introduced Nyaya Setu, an initiative to extend legal services to marginalized communities and ensure their access to justice. • DISHA Achievement: The event unveiled the achievement booklet of the Access to Justice Scheme, DISHA. • DISHA Tele Law Programme: The Tele Law Programme has connected millions for pre-litigation advice. • Collaborations: DISHA has collaborated with Bhashini and IGNOU to break language barriers in justice accessibility and enhance educational opportunities for paralegals.
One Scientist-One Product Programme	Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)	2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch: The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is set to launch the 'One Scientist-One Product' program on July 16. • Objective: To focus and streamline research efforts in agriculture and animal husbandry, enhancing specialization, efficiency, and the development of new agricultural technologies. • New Crop Varieties: ICAR will announce 323 new varieties across 56 crops, including 289 climate-resilient and 27 bio-fortified varieties. • ICAR's 100-Day Action Plan: ICAR aims to develop 100 new seed varieties and create 100 new farm technologies within 100 days. • Bio-fortified Crops: ICAR has made significant progress in the adoption of bio-fortified crop varieties, covering 16 million hectares. • Climate-Resilient Technologies: The organization has developed climate-resilient technologies that enhance production even in adverse weather conditions. • Varietal Development: Over the past decade, ICAR has released 2,593 high-yielding varieties, including 2,177 climate-resilient varieties and 150 bio-fortified varieties.
Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative	Ministry of Coal	2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atmanirbhar Bharat Impact: Under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, India achieves a significant milestone in coal mining.





Name of Initiative	Ministry	Year	Purpose
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SECL Mines Leading the Way: Gevra and Kasmunda coal mines, operated by SECL, a subsidiary of Coal India, rank as the 2nd and 4th largest globally. • Location and Production: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gevra Mine (Chhattisgarh): Operational since 1981, annual production capacity of 70 million tons, produced 59 million tons in FY 23-24. • Kasmunda Mine (Chhattisgarh): Produced over 50 million tons in FY 23-24, second Indian mine to achieve this feat. • Contribution: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both mines contribute about 10% to India's total coal production. • Expected to meet the country's energy needs for the next decade (Gevra). • Technology and Sustainability: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced mining machines like Surface Miners for blast-free extraction. • Heavy Earth Moving Machinery (HEMM) for efficient overburden removal. • Acknowledgement: SECL's CMD Dr. Prem Sagar Mishra commends the dedication of coal workers, stakeholders, and government bodies for this achievement.
Revised Model Skill Loan Scheme	Central Government	2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch: The Centre introduced the revised Model Skill Loan Scheme on July 25, 2024, to provide financial support for skill development courses. • Loan Amount: The scheme offers collateral-free loans of up to Rs. 7.5 lakh. • Eligible Lenders: Expanded eligibility includes Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), NBFC-Micro Finance Institutions (NBFC-MFIs), and small finance banks. • Objective: To remove financial barriers to advanced skill education and develop a future-ready workforce. • Government's Vision: The scheme aligns with the government's vision for 2047, focusing on adapting education and job markets to rapid technological and societal changes. • Role of NBFCs: The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship recognizes the significant role of NBFCs and microfinance institutions in the skill loan market. • Credit Guarantee: The scheme provides a guarantee against default for up to 75% of the distributed loans, with the maximum loan size increased from Rs. 1.5 lakh to Rs. 7.5 lakh. • Building on CCFSSD: The revised scheme builds upon the Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme for Skill Development (CCFSSD), launched in 2015, to ensure a steady flow of affordable finance for low-income youth.

State Schemes/ Apps of July 2024

Name of Initiative	Ministry	Year	Purpose
Ladla Bhai Yojana	Government of Maharashtra	2024	<p>The Ladla Bhai Yojana is a new scheme introduced by the Maharashtra government to provide financial assistance to boys who have passed the 12th grade. The scheme is part of the government's efforts to prepare a skilled workforce and address the issue of unemployment in the state.</p> <p>Key points about the Ladla Bhai Yojana:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eligibility: The scheme is open to boys who have completed their 12th grade. • Stipend amount: The stipend amount will vary based on the beneficiaries' qualifications. Students who have completed their 12th grade will receive ₹6,000 per month, while students holding a diploma will receive ₹8,000 per month, and those who have graduated will be given ₹10,000 per month.





Name of Initiative	Ministry	Year	Purpose
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apprenticeship: The youth will also be given an opportunity to undergo a one-year apprenticeship in a factory, gaining valuable work experience that will help them secure jobs. • Aim: The scheme aims to prepare a skilled workforce and address the issue of unemployment in the state. <p>In addition to the Ladla Bhai Yojana, the Maharashtra government has also introduced the Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana for girls. This scheme provides monthly financial assistance of ₹1,500 to eligible women in the age group of 21 to 60 years. The scheme aims to ensure overall development and empowerment of women, including economic independence, self-reliance, health and nutrition.</p> <p>Key points about the Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eligibility: The scheme is open to eligible women in the age group of 21 to 60 years who are residents of Maharashtra. • Stipend amount: Eligible women will receive a monthly allowance of ₹1,500. • Aim: The scheme aims to ensure overall development and empowerment of women, including economic independence, self-reliance, health and nutrition. • Benefits: The scheme offers benefits such as monthly financial assistance, empowerment, enhanced economic security, and reducing gender disparities.
Shramik Basera Scheme 2024	Gujarat State Government	2024	<p>The Shramik Basera Scheme is a government initiative aimed at providing affordable housing facilities to construction workers and laborers in Gujarat, India. The scheme involves setting up 17 housing structures in various cities to accommodate around 15,000 beneficiaries.</p> <p>Key points about the Shramik Basera Scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target beneficiaries: Construction workers and laborers who are financially unstable. • Housing facilities: The scheme provides temporary housing facilities at a minimal cost of INR 5 per day. • Government investment: The Gujarat state government has allocated 1500 crores for the implementation of the scheme. • Eligibility criteria: Applicants must be daily laborers or construction workers and financially unstable. • Online application: The scheme can be applied for online, eliminating the need for physical visits. <p>The Shramik Basera Scheme is a significant step towards improving the living conditions of construction workers and laborers in Gujarat, providing them with a safe and affordable place to stay.</p>

National Schemes/ Apps of June 2024

Name of Initiative	Ministry	Year	Purpose
Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam Campaign	Ministry of Environment	2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch: Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign on June 5, 2024, to commemorate World Environment Day. • Purpose: The campaign encourages individuals to plant a tree as a tribute to their mother, promoting environmental sustainability. • Symbolism: The Peepal tree, planted by PM Modi at Buddha Jayanti Park in Delhi, symbolizes longevity, wisdom, and protection. • Government's Efforts: India has made significant strides in increasing forest cover in recent years, demonstrating its commitment to sustainable development. • Community Involvement: Local communities have played a crucial role in driving environmental conservation efforts.
Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-	Ministry of Agriculture & Welfare	2018-2019	The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) is a central government scheme in India that provides financial assistance to small and marginal farmers. The scheme has been instrumental in supporting the income of millions of farmers across the country.





KISAN)			<p>Key points about PM-KISAN:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial assistance: The scheme provides an annual financial assistance of Rs 6,000 to eligible farmers, distributed in three equal installments of Rs 2,000 every four months. • Beneficiaries: The scheme benefits more than 93 million farmers across India. • Objectives: The scheme aims to provide income support to farmers, reduce poverty, promote agricultural growth, and ensure economic stability. • Features: The scheme features direct benefit transfer (DBT), universal coverage, an online platform, and Aadhaar linkage. <p>The PM-KISAN scheme has been a significant step towards improving the lives of small and marginal farmers in India. It has provided much-needed financial support and has contributed to the overall development of the agricultural sector.</p>
Pump and Dump Scheme	Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)	2024	<p>The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has taken action against 11 individuals involved in a pump and dump scheme involving the scrip of Svarnim Trade Udyog. The scheme involved artificially inflating the price of the stock through false and misleading information, and then selling the stock at the inflated price to profit at the expense of other investors.</p> <p>Key points about the pump and dump scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manipulation: The scheme involves artificially inflating the price of a stock through false and misleading information. • Targets: It is particularly prevalent in the micro-cap and small-cap sectors, where companies often have limited public information and trading volumes are lower. • Operation: The scheme was operated through recommendations shared through Telegram channels, resulting in public shareholders purchasing the stock at an inflated price. • Process: The scheme involves several steps: acquiring a significant amount of stock in a small company, aggressively promoting the stock, and then selling off the stock at the inflated price. <p>SEBI's action against the individuals involved in the scheme is a reminder of the importance of being cautious when investing in stocks, especially in the micro-cap and small-cap sectors. Investors should be aware of the risks associated with pump and dump schemes and avoid investing in stocks based on false or misleading information.</p>
Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) Expansion	Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs	2024	<p>The Prime Minister's decision to allocate additional funds for the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) demonstrates the government's commitment to providing affordable housing to all citizens. This move will significantly impact the lives of millions of people across India.</p> <p>Key points about the PMAY expansion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional houses: The government has approved the construction of 3 crore additional rural and urban houses under PMAY. • Increased assistance: The Centre has decided to increase the assistance provided to beneficiaries under PMAY-G by about 50%. • Cost-sharing: The Centre and states share expenses in a 60:40 ratio in plain areas and a 90:10 ratio in hilly areas. • Future targets: The government aims to build 2 crore more houses under PMAY-G in the next five years. <p>This expansion of PMAY is a significant step towards achieving the government's goal of providing housing for all by 2022. It will not only improve the living conditions of millions of people but also boost the economy through job creation and increased demand for construction materials.</p>
Krishi Sakhis Initiative	Ministry of Agriculture	2024	<p>The Krishi Sakhi Convergence Program (KSCP) is a significant initiative aimed at empowering rural women in India and transforming the agricultural sector. By training and certifying Krishi Sakhis as para-extension workers, the program leverages the expertise and trust of these women to provide valuable agricultural support to local farmers.</p>





			<p>Key points about the KSCP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empowering women: The program aims to empower rural women by training them as Krishi Sakhis and providing them with opportunities to contribute to agricultural development. • Training: Krishi Sakhis undergo a 56-day training program covering various aspects of agriculture, including agro-ecological practices, soil health, and communication skills. • Employment opportunities: Certified Krishi Sakhis can work on various government schemes and earn a decent income. • Impact: The program has already made a significant impact in the 12 states where it has been launched, with 34,000 Krishi Sakhis certified as para-extension workers. <p>The KSCP is a promising initiative that has the potential to transform the agricultural landscape in India by empowering rural women and promoting sustainable agricultural practices.</p>
National STOP Diarrhoea Campaign	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare	2024	<p>The National STOP Diarrhoea Campaign 2024 is a significant initiative launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to address the issue of childhood diarrhoea in India. The campaign aims to reduce child mortality due to diarrhoea by promoting prevention, protection, and treatment strategies.</p> <p>Key points about the campaign:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal: To attain zero child deaths due to childhood diarrhoea. • Strategies: The campaign involves a 2-month long campaign with pre-positioning of ORS and zinc packets, extensive IEC, and collaboration across multiple sectors. • Relationship with other initiatives: The campaign is closely linked to Mission Indradhanush, Rotavirus vaccine, and other government initiatives such as the National Jal Jeevan Mission and Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. • Focus areas: The campaign focuses on strengthening health infrastructure, improving access to clean water and sanitation, enhancing nutritional programs, and promoting hygiene education. <p>The STOP Diarrhoea Campaign is a comprehensive effort to address the issue of childhood diarrhoea in India. By focusing on prevention, treatment, and creating a supportive environment for children, the campaign aims to save lives and improve the health and well-being of millions of children across the country.</p>
“One Week One Theme” (OWOT) Campaign	Ministry of Science and Technology	2024	<p>The One Week One Theme (OWOT) campaign is a significant initiative launched by the Ministry of Science and Technology to showcase the achievements and innovations of India's scientific and technological research institutions. The campaign aims to create awareness among citizens about the progress and development in these institutions, and to foster collaboration between industry, academia, and research.</p> <p>Key points about the OWOT campaign:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective: To integrate the efforts of CSIR labs working on similar projects, reduce overlap, and optimize resources. • Focus: The campaign focuses on showcasing recent success stories of India in different streams of science and technology. • Themes: The campaign covers eight themes, including energy, chemicals, aerospace, electronics, civil infrastructure, agriculture, healthcare, mining, ecology, and water. • Success of OWOL: The OWOT campaign is built on the success of the One Week One Lab (OWOL) initiative launched last year. • Industry-academia collaboration: The campaign aims to foster collaboration between industry, academia, and research.





			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public awareness: The campaign aims to create awareness among citizens about the progress and development in CSIR labs. • Future plans: The government plans to scale up the OWOT initiative to include other research institutions and to focus on emerging themes such as the Deep-Sea mission, Aroma Mission, millet economy, Bio economy, and Next generation technology. <p>The OWOT campaign is a valuable initiative that highlights India's achievements in science and technology and promotes innovation and collaboration. It is expected to play a significant role in driving India's economic growth and development.</p>
Safai Apnao, Bimaari Bhagao (SABB) Initiative	Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs	2024	<p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch: The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs launched the Safai Apnao, Bimaari Bhagao (SABB) initiative under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0. • Objective: To bolster Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in tackling cleanliness and health challenges during the monsoon season. • Alignment: SABB aligns with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's 'STOP Diarrhoea Campaign.' • Key Elements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Special cleanliness drives ○ Improved sanitation and hygiene facilities ○ Adoption of the Protect Prevent Treat Strategy (PPTS) • Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Community engagement ○ Training programs ○ Awareness campaigns <p>Overall, the SABB initiative is a comprehensive effort to promote cleanliness, hygiene, and disease prevention in urban areas, especially during the monsoon season. It aims to improve the quality of life for urban residents and contribute to the overall health and well-being of the community.</p>

State Schemes of June 2024

Bharatiya Gyan Parampara Centers	Government of Madhya Pradesh	2024	<p>The Madhya Pradesh government has taken several initiatives to promote education, tourism, and sustainable living. Some of the key initiatives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PM College of Excellence: The government plans to open a center of Bharatiya Gyan Parampara in every PM College of Excellence, which will be started in all 55 districts of Madhya Pradesh from July 1. • Drone policy: The state government is developing a drone policy to promote the use of drones in higher education, industry, and other sectors. • Pilot training institutes: The government plans to establish pilot training institutes in areas with airstrips. • Shri Anna Samvardhan Abhiyan: The government has launched this initiative to promote the use of millets and other coarse grains in daily life. • Inclusion of Lord Ram and Krishna's achievements in syllabus: The government has decided to include the achievements of Lord Ram and Krishna in the syllabus of School Education and Higher Education. • Ram Van Gaman Path and Krishna Path Gaman: The government is developing religious sites connected to Lord Ram and Krishna. • Construction of entry gates: The government has directed to construct entry gates in the name of Lord Ram, Krishna, and other luminaries. • Geeta Utsava: The government plans to celebrate Geeta Utsava on Geeta Jayanti. <p>These initiatives demonstrate the Madhya Pradesh government's commitment to education, sustainable living, and preserving cultural heritage.</p>
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Committees News

Committees of September 2024

Committee	Committee Head	Purpose
Panel formed by the revenue department	V K Gupta, Chief Commissioner of Income Tax (I-T)	<p>The Revenue Department is reviewing the Income Tax Act of 1961 with the aim of simplifying it and making it more concise. The committee tasked with this review is chaired by Chief Commissioner V K Gupta.</p> <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simplification: The committee aims to rationalize exemptions and deductions, eliminate duplications, align computing methods with international standards, and expedite the tax appeals process. • Sections to be Removed: Up to 120 sections, sub-sections, and clauses may be removed from the Act. • Focus: The review focuses on exemptions or deductions in telecom, special economic zones, and capital gains. • Separate Annexure: The panel may suggest a separate annexure for outdated sections. • No DTC: The government is unlikely to introduce a new direct tax code (DTC) and will focus on revising the current Act. • Expert Team: An expert team formed in 2017 has already produced a report suggesting significant revisions to the Act. • Law Ministry Assistance: The panel may seek assistance from the Law Ministry in creating the simplified Act. • Union Budget Announcement: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced changes to the Income Tax Act in the July 2024 Budget. • Committee's Objectives: The committee aims to reduce redundancy in existing law, identify and remove expired sections, and implement best worldwide practices. • Tax Act's Journey: The Income Tax Act of 1961 was introduced in 1922 and has undergone several revisions since then. • Government's Goals: The government aims to simplify the tax code, improve taxpayer services, provide tax certainty, and reduce litigation.
High-powered committee	Justice Nawab Singh	<p>The Supreme Court has constituted a high-powered committee to resolve the grievances of farmers agitating at the Shambhu border between Punjab and Haryana.</p> <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee: The committee is chaired by former Punjab and Haryana High Court judge, Justice Nawab Singh. • Mandate: The committee will amicably resolve the grievances of the farmers. • Meeting: The committee will convene its first meeting within a week. • Court's Urging: The court urged the farmers to distance themselves from political parties and not to politicise the issue. • Farmers' Demands: The farmers are agitating over a plethora of demands, including legal guarantee of minimum support price (MSP) for their produce. • Committee Members: The committee comprises retired IPS officer B.S. Sandhu, Mohali resident Devinder Sharma, Professor Ranjit Singh Ghuman, Dr. Sukhpal Singh, and Professor B.R. Kamboj (expert opinion). • Court's Acknowledgment: The court acknowledged the contribution of farmers to agricultural growth and emphasized the need to consider their legitimate aspirations.





<p>23rd Law Commission of India</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>The Union government has set up the 23rd Law Commission to identify obsolete laws, review laws that affect the poor, and suggest improvements to the judicial administration system.</p> <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Term: The Law Commission will function from September 1, 2024 to August 31, 2027. • Members: The commission will include a full-time chairperson, four full-time members, ex-officio members, and up to five part-time members. • Tasks: The commission will examine existing laws, suggest improvements, and recommend new legislations. • Focus: The commission will focus on laws that affect the poor and the impact of globalization on food security and unemployment. • Judicial administration: The commission will also review the judicial administration system to make it more responsive to the demands of the time. • Previous Law Commission: The 22nd Law Commission was working on reports on Uniform Civil Code and simultaneous elections, but could not submit them before its term ended. • Goals: The 23rd Law Commission aims to eliminate delays in the judicial system, simplify High Courts rules, and implement a framework for case flow management. <p>The establishment of the 23rd Law Commission is a significant step towards reforming the legal system in India. It is expected to play a crucial role in ensuring that the laws of the country are relevant, efficient, and just.</p>
<p>Committee of Experts by the Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA)</p>	<p>Bharat Khera</p>	<p>The Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA) has constituted a committee to recommend a robust framework for a Repairability Index in the mobile and electronics sector. The committee aims to provide consumers with greater transparency of repair information and promote sustainable practices within the tech industry.</p> <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repairability Index: The Repairability Index will provide consumers with information about product repairability, enabling informed purchasing decisions. • Standardization: The index will standardize the assessment of repairability, making it easier for consumers to compare products. • Consumer Empowerment: The index will empower consumers to make informed choices and choose products that are more sustainable. • Repair Ecosystem: The committee will recommend a framework that supports repairability, including access to repair information, spare parts, tools, and modular design. • Committee: The committee includes representatives from DoCA, MIETY, MSME, NTH, industry associations, and companies. • Deadline: The committee will submit its report by November 15, 2024. <p>The Repairability Index is a significant initiative that has the potential to transform the mobile and electronics industry by promoting sustainability and empowering consumers.</p>
<p>Fifteen-member steering committee of the GlobE Network</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>The Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (GlobE Network) is an initiative launched under the G20 framework to address international corruption and financial crime. India has been elected to the fifteen-member steering committee of the GlobE Network, which will allow it to actively contribute to global efforts in combating corruption and facilitating asset recovery.</p> <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India's election to the steering committee is a recognition of its expertise and experience in combating corruption.





	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The GlobE Network provides a platform for international cooperation and exchange of best practices. India has been a supporter of the GlobE Network since 2020. The network includes 121 member countries and 219 member authorities. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) serves as the Central Authority for GlobE Network in India, while the CBI and Enforcement Directorate (ED) represent India as member authorities. The network aims to combat corruption and facilitate asset recovery. India's G20 Presidency in 2023 adopted two key principles for combating corruption, focusing on the use of the GlobE Network. <p>India's election to the steering committee of the GlobE Network is a significant step towards strengthening its efforts in combating corruption and promoting international cooperation.</p>
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Committees of August 2024

Committee	Committee Head	Purpose
ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) Joint Committee	Shri Rajesh Agrawal (India) & Ms. Mastura Ahmad Mustafa (Malaysia)	<p>The 5th AITIGA Joint Committee meeting was held in Jakarta, Indonesia from July 29 to August 1, 2024. The meeting reviewed the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) and discussed ways to enhance economic cooperation between ASEAN and India.</p> <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delegates from all 10 ASEAN Countries and India participated in the meeting. The AITIGA Joint Committee initiated discussions for review of AITIGA in May 2023. The first 2 rounds of negotiations were held in February 2024 in New Delhi and in May 2024 in Putrajaya, Malaysia. During the 3rd round of negotiations in Jakarta, Indonesia, all 8 Sub-Committees met and held substantive discussions. The Indian lead of delegation held bilateral meetings with his counterparts from Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and Vietnam. Separate meetings were also held with ASEAN Secretary General Dr. Kao Kim Hourn and ASEAN Deputy Secretary General Mr. Satvinder Singh. Indian delegation interacted with Indian businesses in Jakarta on July 31, 2024. ASEAN is an important trade partner of India with about 11% share in India's global trade. The review of AITIGA will help create further opportunities for businesses on both sides to enhance the level of India-ASEAN trade. The next meeting of AITIGA Joint Committee will be held in India from November 19-22, 2024. <p>The 5th AITIGA Joint Committee meeting was a significant milestone in enhancing economic cooperation between ASEAN and India. The review of AITIGA is expected to lead to further opportunities for businesses on both sides and strengthen the trade relationship between the two regions.</p>
Committee on Indo-Bangladesh Border Monitoring	ADG, Border Security Force (BSF), Eastern Command	<p>The Government of India has constituted a Committee to monitor the current situation on the Indo-Bangladesh Border (IBB).</p> <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee: The Committee will be headed by ADG, Border Security Force (BSF), Eastern Command. Members: The Committee will have IG, BSF Frontier HQ South Bengal, IG, BSF Frontier HQ Tripura, Member (Planning & Development), Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI), and Secretary, LPAI.





		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective: The Committee will maintain communication channels with their counterpart authorities in Bangladesh to ensure safety of Indian citizens and people belonging to minority communities in Bangladesh. <p>The formation of this Committee is a positive step towards ensuring the safety and security of the Indo-Bangladesh border and the people living in the region.</p>
Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs	Prime Minister Narendra Modi	<p>The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved 12 new greenfield industrial smart cities under the National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP).</p> <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the proposal to set up 12 new greenfield industrial smart cities under the NICDP. • National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP): The NICDP is a flagship government initiative aimed at transforming India's industrial landscape by developing world-class infrastructure and attracting investments. • Greenfield Industrial Smart Cities: These cities will be developed from scratch and will incorporate modern infrastructure, technology, and sustainable practices. • Benefits: The development of these industrial smart cities will create jobs, boost economic growth, and promote industrial development in India. <p>The approval of 12 new greenfield industrial smart cities is a significant step towards realizing the vision of the NICDP and transforming India into a global manufacturing hub.</p>

Committees of July 2024

Committee	Committee Head	Purpose
46th session of UNESCO World Heritage Committee	-	<p>The 46th session of the World Heritage Committee take place in New Delhi, India. The event brings together delegates from across the globe to discuss and collaborate on preserving our shared cultural, natural and mixed heritage.</p> <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Heritage Committee: The committee comprises of representatives from 21 States Parties to the World Heritage Convention (1972). • Current members: Argentina, Belgium, Bulgaria, Greece, India, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lebanon, Mexico, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Türkiye, Ukraine, Viet Nam, and Zambia. • Bureau Members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chairperson: H.E. Ambassador Mr. Vishal Sharma (India) ○ Rapporteur: Mr Martin Ouaklani (Belgium) ○ Vice-Chairpersons: Bulgaria, Greece, Qatar, Kenya and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. <p>The World Heritage Committee plays a crucial role in protecting and preserving our world heritage sites. The 46th session is an important opportunity for countries to collaborate and ensure the continued preservation of these valuable cultural and natural resources.</p>
Committee on Fee Structure for White-label ATMs	Sunil Mehta (Indian Banks' Association)	<p>The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has established a committee to review the fee structure of white-label ATMs (WLAs). The committee aims to evaluate current policies and recommend a balanced and sustainable model for all stakeholders.</p> <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective: The committee will assess the fee structure, existing ATM infrastructure, and international best practices. • Main Challenge: The primary issue is the interchange fee, which is currently the same for both bank-operated ATMs and WLAs.





		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market Growth: India's ATM market is projected to grow at a CAGR of 9.2% from 2024 to 2032. • Stakeholders: The committee includes representatives from leading banks, ATM manufacturers, and the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). • RBI Initiatives: Since 2012, the RBI has allowed non-banking entities to establish WLAs. In 2016, WLAs were permitted to source cash from retail establishments, and in 2019, they were allowed on-tap authorization. • Fee Proposals: WLA operators have suggested raising the interchange fee and considering access or convenience fees. • WLA Services: WLAs offer account information, mini/short statement generation, cash withdrawals, and PIN changes. • Limitations: WLAs do not provide cash deposits, regular bill payments, or mobile recharge services. • RBI's Long-Term Vision: The RBI aims to encourage more participation in retail payment platforms, including WLAs. • Public Consultation: The RBI has engaged in public consultations to gather feedback and minimize concentration risk in retail payment systems. <p>The review of the WLA fee structure is an important step towards ensuring the sustainability of the ATM industry in India and providing better services to customers.</p>
46th World Heritage Committee session	-	<p>The 46th Session of the World Heritage Committee will be held in New Delhi, India from July 21 to 31, 2024. This is the first time India is hosting the event. The session will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and will be attended by delegates from across the globe.</p> <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theme: "May our Glory Grow" (Sah Nau Yashash) • Logo: Inspired by the World Heritage Site of Hampi, the stone chariot from the Vijaya Vitthala Temple. • Side events: India will showcase its rich and diverse culture and heritage through various exhibitions and tours. • World Heritage Committee: The committee comprises representatives from 21 States Parties to the World Heritage Convention (1972). • India's Role: India has been a member of the World Heritage Committee for four terms and has inscribed 42 properties on the World Heritage List. • Focus: The committee will discuss and collaborate on preserving our shared cultural, natural and mixed heritage. <p>The 46th Session of the World Heritage Committee is a significant event that will showcase India's cultural heritage to the world and promote global cooperation in preserving our shared heritage.</p>

Committees of June 2024

Committee	Committee Head	Purpose
Gender Sensitisation and Internal Complaints Committee	Hima Kohli	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Justice Hima Kohli was appointed as the chairperson of the Supreme Court's Gender Sensitisation and Internal Complaints Committee on May 31, 2023. • Gender sensitisation is seen as essential for creating a bias-free society where everyone can live and work with dignity, as highlighted by Justice Kohli. • Justice B.V. Nagarathna, a future Chief Justice of India, is also a member of the committee and emphasized the importance of addressing sexual harassment to promote equality. • The Supreme Court faced scrutiny in 2019 when a woman employee accused then CJI Ranjan Gogoi of sexual harassment. A three-judge panel led by Justice S.A. Bobde cleared him after private hearings. • The current committee was set up by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud under the 2013 Regulations, which dictate the committee's composition, including 7 to 13 members from various stakeholders within the Supreme Court. • Additional Registrar Sukhda Pritam serves as the Member Secretary of the committee.





		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key members include senior advocates Meenakshi Arora and Mahalakshmi Pavani, advocates Soumyajit Pani and Anindita Pujari, Madhu Chauhan, Professor Shruti Pandey, and others.
<p>Committee on Ownership and Economic Structure of Clearing Corporations</p>	<p>Usha Thorat</p>	<p>SEBI Sets Up Committee to Review Ownership and Economic Structure of Clearing Corporations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEBI, the capital markets regulator, has formed an ad-hoc committee to review the ownership and economic structure of clearing corporations. The committee is expected to suggest measures to ensure these entities function as resilient, independent, and neutral risk managers. The committee will be chaired by Usha Thorat, former Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The move comes due to the substantial growth of Indian securities markets and the importance of clearing corporations as central risk management institutions. <p>Key Tasks of the Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Review Ownership Structure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess the feasibility of broadening the list of eligible investors who can take shareholding in clearing corporations. Suggest categories of investors who can acquire stakes in clearing corporations. Examine whether there is a need to alter shareholding caps for various entities in these corporations. Inter-Operable Environment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Propose a suitable shareholding pattern for clearing corporations operating in an inter-operable environment (serving multiple exchanges). Alternative Ownership Structures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze global clearing corporation shareholding structures to offer suggestions. Propose alternatives considering the capital needs of clearing corporations, especially during market-wide systemic stress. Current Ownership Concerns: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearing corporations are currently subsidiaries of their parent exchanges, leading to dominance by these exchanges. This exposes clearing corporations to shareholder expectations of the parent exchange. The financial statements of clearing corporations are incorporated into the parent exchange's consolidated financial statements. Financial Independence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The committee will suggest ways to ensure financial independence and sustainability for clearing corporations as robust going concerns. This includes ensuring sufficient capital and liquidity during times of market-wide stress and systemic risk.
<p>Committee on Digital Public Infrastructure for Digital Payments Intelligence Platform</p>	<p>A P Hota (former MD and CEO of NPCI)</p>	<p>RBI Constitutes Committee for Digital Payments Intelligence Platform</p> <p>The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has formed a committee under the chairmanship of A P Hota, the former MD and CEO of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), to examine the establishment of a Digital Public Infrastructure for Digital Payments Intelligence Platform.</p> <p>Objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Digital Payments Intelligence Platform aims to mitigate payment fraud risks by enhancing the overall security of the digital payments ecosystem. <p>Key Points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Committee Chair: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The committee will be chaired by A P Hota, former MD and CEO of NPCI. Focus Areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The committee will explore various aspects of setting up a platform to combat digital fraud in real-time.





		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The goal is to establish network-level intelligence and real-time data sharing across all payment systems to prevent fraud. <p>3. Payment Ecosystem Involvement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Despite ongoing measures taken by banks, NPCI, card networks, payment aggregators, and payment apps to protect customers, RBI recognizes the need for more advanced and integrated solutions. ○ A centralized platform that shares data across payment systems in real-time would help prevent future fraud more effectively. <p>4. Timeline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The committee is expected to submit its recommendations to the RBI within two months. <p>This initiative by the RBI demonstrates the growing focus on strengthening the digital payment infrastructure in India and enhancing fraud prevention mechanisms in a rapidly evolving digital payments landscape.</p>
The Union Ministry of Education has set up seven members committee	K Radhakrishnan (former ISRO chairman)	<p>The Union Ministry of Education has constituted a High-Level Committee of Experts to ensure the transparent, smooth, and fair conduct of examinations by the National Testing Agency (NTA).</p> <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee: The seven-member committee is chaired by former ISRO Chairman Dr. K. Radhakrishnan. • Mandate: The committee will recommend reforms in the examination process of NTA to enhance efficiency and prevent breaches, improve data security protocols, and review the structure and functioning of the agency. • Timeline: The committee has been given two months to submit its report to the Ministry. • Members: The committee includes former AIIMS Delhi Director Dr. Randeep Guleria, Vice-Chancellor of the Central University of Hyderabad Prof. B. J. Rao, Professor Emeritus at IIT Madras Prof. Ramamurthy K., and Dean of Student Affairs at IIT Delhi Prof. Aditya Mittal. • Government's Commitment: The government is committed to transparent, tamper-free, and zero-error examinations. <p>The formation of the High-Level Committee is a positive step towards ensuring the integrity and efficiency of the examination process conducted by the NTA.</p>

Important Days

Important Days of December 2024

Date	Day/Observance	Theme/Description
December 1	World AIDS Day	Theme 2024: <i>"Take the rights path: My health, my right!"</i> Focuses on human rights in the fight against HIV/AIDS and emphasizes achieving Universal Health Coverage and the Right to Health.
December 2	International Day for the Abolition of Slavery	Promotes action against modern slavery, including human trafficking, forced labor, and exploitation, while emphasizing human rights and the dignity of individuals.
December 3	International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD)	Aims to promote understanding of disability issues and advocate for the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities. Encourages their integration into political, social, economic, and cultural life for inclusive development.
December 4	Indian Navy Day	Theme 2024: <i>"Strength and Capability through Innovation and Indigenization"</i> Celebrates the valor and dedication of the Indian Navy, marking the success of Operation Trident during the 1971 Indo-Pak War and highlights self-reliance in defense technologies.





Date	Day/Observance	Theme/Description
December 4	International Day of Banks	Highlights the vital role of banks in promoting sustainable growth, stabilizing economies, and improving living standards. Recognizes the resilience of India's banking sector despite challenges like geopolitical tensions.
December 4	International Cheetah Day	Raises awareness about the conservation challenges faced by cheetahs, now critically endangered with fewer than 7,000 individuals remaining globally. Honors the Cheetah Conservation Fund's efforts in protecting this species.
December 5	International Volunteer Day (IVD)	Recognized by the UN to honor the contributions of volunteers in economic and social development worldwide. Provides a platform to showcase the impact of volunteerism on communities.
December 5	World Soil Day	Theme 2024: "Caring for Soils: Measure, Monitor, Manage" Focuses on the importance of healthy soil and sustainable management practices through accurate data to ensure long-term ecological balance and food security.
December 6	Mahaparinirvan Diwas	Marks the death anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the chief architect of the Indian Constitution. Reflects on his teachings and contributions to equality and fighting caste-based discrimination for a just society.
December 6	All India Civil Defence and Home Guards Day	Commemorates the formation of the Home Guard force in 1946, which aids the police and supports disaster response and crisis management in India.
December 7	Armed Forces Flag Day	Honors the sacrifices and dedication of the Indian Armed Forces. Encourages citizens to contribute to the welfare of personnel, veterans, and their families.
December 7	International Civil Aviation Day (ICAD)	Theme 2024: "Safe Skies. Sustainable Future" Celebrates 80 years of the Chicago Convention and ICAO's contributions to global connectivity, sustainable air travel, and economic progress.
December 21	World Meditation Day	Declared by the UNGA to highlight meditation's role in promoting inner peace and addressing modern challenges like stress. Observed on Winter Solstice, complementing the International Day of Yoga on June 21.
December 9	International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and Prevention of Genocide	Honors genocide victims and marks the adoption of the UN Genocide Convention (December 9, 1948), aimed at preventing genocide.
December 9	International Anti-Corruption Day	2024 Theme: "Uniting with Youth Against Corruption: Shaping Tomorrow's Integrity" — Highlights the critical role of youth in combating corruption and promoting transparency and accountability.
December 10	World Human Rights Day	2024 Theme: "Our rights, our future, right now" — Emphasizes the urgency of protecting and promoting human rights globally.
December 11	International Mountain Day	Established by the UN in 2003, this day raises awareness about mountains' vital roles in sustaining biodiversity, regulating the climate, and supporting livelihoods, emphasizing sustainable development.
December 11	UNICEF Foundation Day	Celebrates 78 years of UNICEF's global commitment to protecting children's rights and welfare, improving their lives worldwide.
December 12	International Day of Neutrality	Highlights the importance of neutrality in promoting peace, security, and global stability, fostering better intergovernmental relations.
December 12	Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Day	Advocates for quality health services for all without financial hardship, encouraging progress toward achieving universal health coverage.
December 14	National Energy Conservation Day	Emphasizes energy efficiency as a key to sustainable development, organized by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) under the Ministry of Power.





Important Days of November 2024

Date	Day/Observance	Theme/Description
November 1	Coal India Limited's 50th Foundation Day	Marked the golden jubilee year with tributes at the Coal Martyrs' Memorial.
November 2	International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists (IDEI)	Highlights the need to protect journalists and combat impunity for crimes against them.
November 5	World Tsunami Awareness Day (WTAD)	Theme 2024: "Building Resilient Communities"; promotes awareness and preparedness for tsunamis.
November 6	International Day for Prevention of Exploitation of Environment in War and Armed Conflict	Raises awareness about protecting the environment during conflicts.
November 7	National Cancer Awareness Day	Raises awareness about cancer prevention, detection, and treatment in India.
November 8	World Radiology Day	Theme 2024: "Radiographers: Seeing the Unseen"; honors Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen's discovery of X-rays.
November 9	International Week of Science and Peace (IWOSP)	Celebrated annually from November 9–15 to promote the role of science in global peace.
November 9	Uttarakhand Foundation Day	Marks the formation of Uttarakhand as a separate state.
November 9	World Adoption Day	Raises awareness about the impact of adoption.
November 10	World Science Day for Peace and Development	Theme 2024: "Youth at the Forefront"; highlights science's role in global peace and sustainability.
November 10	World Immunization Day	Highlights the importance of vaccines and public health initiatives.
November 11	National Education Day	Honors Maulana Abul Kalam Azad's contributions to India's education system.
November 11	World Quality Week	Theme 2024: "Quality: From Compliance to Performance"; focuses on improving organizational performance.
November 12	World Pneumonia Day	Theme 2024: "Every Breath Counts: Stop Pneumonia in Its Tracks"; raises awareness about pneumonia.
November 14	World Diabetes Day (WDD)	Theme 2024–26: "Diabetes and Well-being"; focuses on diabetes awareness and prevention.
November 14	Children's Day (Bal Diwas)	Celebrates the birth anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and promotes children's welfare.
November 14	All India Cooperative Week	Theme 2024: "Role of Cooperatives in Building Viksit Bharat"; focuses on cooperatives in development.
November 15	Birsa Munda Jayanti (Janjatiya Gaurav Divas)	Celebrates the tribal leader's legacy and contributions.
November 15	Jharkhand Foundation Day	Marks the creation of the state of Jharkhand.
November 16	National Press Day	Commemorates the establishment of the Press Council of India (PCI) in 1966.
November 16	International Day for Tolerance	Promotes mutual understanding among cultures and encourages tolerance.
November 17	World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims	Observed on the third Sunday of November to honor victims of road accidents.
November 18-24	World AMR Awareness Week	The 2024 theme, "Educate. Advocate. Act Now."
November 18	World Day for the Prevention of and Healing from Child Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Violence	This day emphasizes raising awareness about the widespread and devastating issue of child sexual abuse and violence.
November 19	International Men's Day	The theme for 2024 is "Positive Male Role Models".





Date	Day/Observance	Theme/Description
November 19	National Integration Day	Marks the birth anniversary of Indira Gandhi , India's first woman Prime Minister.
November 20	World Children's Day	The 2024 theme, " Listen to the Future ,".
November 21	World Fisheries Day	Theme for 2024 is " India's Blue Transformation: Strengthening Small-Scale and Sustainable Fisheries ," underscoring India's commitment to inclusive growth and sustainable practices in the sector.
21st November	National Philosophy Day	Established by UNESCO in 2002, the day emphasizes the importance of philosophy in shaping human thought, promoting critical discourse , and addressing global challenges . It also fosters intercultural dialogue and encourages questioning foundational assumptions.
November 21	World Television Day	World Television Day is celebrated every year on November 21 to underscore the role of television as a vital medium of communication.
November 25	International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women	November 25, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women , raises global awareness about violence against women and girls . Observed annually, it urges governments, organizations, and civil society to take action to combat this issue.
November 26	National Milk Day	The day marks the birth anniversary of Dr. Verghese Kurien , the Father of the White Revolution in India.
November 25 to 29	Aviation Safety Awareness Week	The Airports Authority of India (AAI) observes Aviation Safety Awareness Week from November 25 to 29 to emphasize its commitment to aviation safety. Led by Chairman Vipin Kumar, the initiative promotes a strong safety culture across airports and Air Navigation Services in India, aligning with global safety standards.
29 November	International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People	International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People is observed on 29 November annually, established by the UN General Assembly in 1977 . The day emphasizes the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and calls for support in achieving peace . It marks the adoption of UN Resolution 181 on this date in 1947 , which proposed the Partition Plan for Palestine .
November 29	International Jaguar Day	International Jaguar Day is observed on November 29 each year to raise awareness about the importance of jaguars (<i>Panthera onca</i>) and their conservation . As apex predators in the Americas , jaguars play a crucial role in maintaining ecological balance.
November 30	Day of Remembrance for All Victims of Chemical Warfare	Day of Remembrance for All Victims of Chemical Warfare is observed on November 30 to honor victims of chemical warfare and reinforce global commitment to eradicating chemical weapons . Established during the 20th session of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) , it emphasizes principles of peace, security, and multilateral cooperation .

Important Days of October 2024

Date	Day/Observance	Theme/Description
October 1	United Nations International Day of Older Persons	Theme: "Ageing with Dignity: The Importance of Strengthening Care and Support Systems for Older Persons Worldwide."
October 1	International Coffee Day	Theme: "Coffee, Your Daily Ritual, Our Shared Journey," focusing on sustainable and ethical coffee practices.
October 1	World Vegetarian Day	Advocates for a meat-free lifestyle, promoting animal rights, environmental sustainability, and human health.
October 2	International Day of Non-Violence	Established to coincide with Mahatma Gandhi's birthday, promoting non-violence and peace.
October 4	World Animal Day	Commemorates St. Francis of Assisi's feast day, advocating for animal welfare.
October 4-10	World Space Week	Theme: "Space & Climate Change," celebrating contributions of science and technology.





Date	Day/Observance	Theme/Description
October 5	World Teachers' Day	Acknowledges the invaluable contributions of educators in shaping society.
October 6	World Cerebral Palsy Day	Raises awareness and advocates for the rights of individuals with cerebral palsy.
October 7	World Cotton Day	Celebrates cotton as a versatile crop in various industries beyond textiles.
October 8	Indian Air Force Day	Commemorates the dedication and sacrifices of air warriors in India.
October 9	World Post Day	Theme: "150 years of enabling communication and empowering peoples across nations."
October 10	World Mental Health Day	Raises awareness about mental health issues globally.
October 10	National Postal Day	Marks the establishment of the Indian Postal Service and its crucial role in communication.
October 11	International Day of the Girl Child	Theme: "Girls' Vision for the Future," recognizing the rights and potential of girls globally.
October 12	World Migratory Bird Day	Focuses on the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats; Theme: "Insects for Birds."
October 13	International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction	Theme: "Education as a Lifeline for Youth in Disaster Risk Reduction."
October 14	World Standards Day	Theme: Our Shared Vision For a Better World
October 15	International Day of Rural Women	Theme: "Rural Women Sustaining Nature for Our Collective Future."
October 15	World Students' Day	Honors the life and contributions of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam.
October 16	World Food Day	Theme: "Right to Foods for a Better Life and a Better Future."
October 16	World Anaesthesia Day	Theme: "Workforce Well Being," celebrating the role of anaesthesia in medicine.
October 17	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty	Theme: "Ending Social and Institutional Maltreatment: Acting Together for Just, Peaceful, and Inclusive Societies."
October 17	International Abhidhamma Divas	Celebrates the philosophical tradition of Abhidhamma.
October 16	Raising Day of the National Security Guard (NSG)	Commemorates the bravery and dedication of NSG personnel; established in 1984.
October 20	World Statistics Day	Celebrates the significance of statistics in shaping societies; first observed in 2010.
21st October	World Iodine Deficiency Day	The primary goal of this observance is to raise awareness about the importance of iodine in maintaining good health and to emphasize the adverse consequences of iodine deficiency, which remains a global public health issue.
24 Oct, 2024 – Wed, 30 Oct, 2024	Disarmament Week	. The week-long observance is dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of disarmament and promoting international dialogue to reduce the spread and impact of weapons.
24 th to 31 st October	Global Media and Information Literacy Week	The New Digital Frontiers of Information: "Media and Information Literacy for Public Interest Information"
October 24	United Nations Day	This day is a global celebration of the UN's mission to promote peace, security, human rights, and development around the world. In 2024. The United Nations was officially established on October 24, 1945, after the UN Charter was ratified by a majority of signatories, including the five permanent members of the Security Council: the United States, the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union, China, and France.
October 24	World Development Information Day	This observance was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1972, with the primary goal of drawing global attention to development issues and promoting the dissemination of information that supports international cooperation for development.





Date	Day/Observance	Theme/Description
October 24	World Polio Day	The day underscores global efforts to eradicate the disease and ensure a polio-free world for future generations.
October 24	International Day of Diplomats	The International Day of Diplomats, celebrated annually on October 24, shines a spotlight on the critical role that diplomats play in shaping international relations, promoting peace, and fostering cooperation among nations.
October 25	International Dwarfism Awareness Day	Highlights the lives and challenges faced by people with dwarfism, while also raising awareness about conditions like Achondroplasia. This day encourages understanding and inclusion of people with short stature, breaking stereotypes and misconceptions.
October 27	World Day for Audiovisual Heritage	Established by UNESCO in 2005, this day highlights the importance of preserving audiovisual materials like films, sound recordings, and broadcasts, which face unique risks such as chemical decay and technological obsolescence.
October 27	Infantry Day	This day marks the landing of the 1st Battalion of the Sikh Regiment at Srinagar airfield in 1947, a pivotal moment in the defense of Jammu and Kashmir against invading forces.
October 28	International Animation Day	International Animation Day (IAD) was created by ASIFA (Association Internationale du Film d'Animation) in 2002 to honor the origins and influence of animation.
October 29	Ayurveda Day	9th Ayurveda Day on October 29, 2024, this observance aligns with Dhanvantari Jayanti and brings together over 150 countries under the theme, "Ayurveda Innovations for Global Health."
28 th October 2024 to 3 rd November 2024	Vigilance Awareness Week	Theme : "Culture of Integrity for Nation's Prosperity"
October 31st	National Unity Day	India celebrates National Unity Day to honor the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, a key figure in the nation's independence movement and its first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister. Known as the "Iron Man of India," Patel was instrumental in uniting the country's diverse princely states into a single, independent nation.

Important Days of September 2024

Date	Day & Theme
September 1 to 7	National Nutrition Week (NNW) Theme: Nutritious Diets for Everyone
September 2	World Coconut Day Theme: Coconut for a Circular Economy: Building Partnership for Maximum Value
September 5th	International Day of Charity
September 7th	World Duchenne Awareness Day Theme: Raise Your Voice for Duchenne
September 7th	International Day of Clean Air for blue skies Theme: Invest in #CleanAirNow. Our first contact with the world
September 7	International Day of Police Cooperation Theme: Police Integrity, Accountability, and Oversight
first Saturday of September	International Vulture Awareness Day Theme: Protecting Nature's Cleaners – Save Vultures
September 9	UN International Day to Protect Education from Attack
September 11	National Forest Martyrs Day Theme: Honoring the Sacrifices of those who Defended Forests and Wildlife





Date	Day & Theme
September 14th	Hindi Diwas
September 15th	National Engineers' Day Theme: Innovating for a Sustainable Future
September 15th	International Day of Democracy Theme: Ensuring effective governance of AI at all levels
16th September	International Day of Science, Technology and Innovation for the South
September 16th	International Day for Interventional Cardiology
September 17	World Patient Safety Day Theme: Improving diagnosis for patient safety
September 21st	International Day of Peace Theme: Cultivating a Culture of Peace
September 22	World Rhino Day Theme: Keep the Five Alive
23 September	International Day of Sign Languages Theme: Sign up for Sign Language Rights
September 24th	World Bollywood Day
September 25th	Antyodaya Diwas
September 25th	World Pharmacist Day Theme: Pharmacists: Meeting global health needs
September 26	International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons
26 September	World Maritime Day 2024 Theme: Navigating the Future: Safety First!"
September 26	World Environmental Health Day Theme: Environmental Health: Creating Resilient Communities through Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation
September 26	World Contraception Day
September 27	World Tourism Day Theme: Tourism and Peace
28th September	International Day for Universal Access to Information Theme: Mainstreaming Access to Information and Participation in the Public Sector
September 28th	World Rabies Day Theme: Breaking Rabies Boundaries
September 29th	World Heart Day Theme: Use Heart for Action

Important Days of August 2024

Date	Day & Theme
August 3, 2024	Indian Organ Donation Day Theme: Be the Reason for Someone's Smile Today!
August 6th	Hiroshima Day
August 7	National Handloom Day Theme: Weaving Sustainable Futures.
August 7	National Javelin Day
August 8	Quit India Movement Day
August 9th	International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples
August 9th	Nagasaki Day
August 10th	World Lion Day Theme: Lions in the Balance: Protecting Their Future
August 10th	World Biofuel Day Theme: Sustainable Biofuels: Fueling a Greener Future
August 11th	World Steelpan Day Theme: From Roots to Recognition: Steelpan's Journey to Global Acclaim
August 12th	International Youth Day Theme: From Clicks to Progress: Youth Digital Pathways for Sustainable Development
August 12th	World Elephant Day Theme: Personifying prehistoric beauty, theological relevance, and environmental importance
August 13	World Organ Donation Day Theme: Be the Reason for Someone's Smile Today!
August 19th	World Humanitarian Day
August 21st	International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism Theme: Voices for Peace





Date	Day & Theme
August 22	International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief
August 23	National Space Day 2024 Theme: Touching Lives while Touching the Moon
August 23rd	International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition
August 26	114th birth anniversary of Mother Teresa
25-29 August 2024	World Water Week Theme: Bridging Borders: Water for a Peaceful and Sustainable Future
August 29	International Day Against Nuclear Tests
August 29	National Sports Day
August 30th	International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances
31st August	International Day for People of African Descent Theme: People of African descent: recognition, justice and development.

Important Days of July 2024

Date	Day & Theme
July 1	National Doctor's Day Theme: Healing Hands, Caring Hearts
July 1	GST Day
July 1	CA Day
July 2	World Sports Journalists Day
July 2	World UFO Day
July 3	International Plastic Bag Free Day Theme: A step towards sustainability
July 6	International Day of Cooperatives Theme: Cooperatives Building a Better Future for All."
July 6	World Zoonoses Day Theme: One World, One Health: Prevent Zoonoses
July 7th	World Kiswahili Language Day Theme: Kiswahili: Education and Culture of Peace
July 11th	World Population Day Theme: Leave no one behind, count everyone
July 11	International Day of Reflection and Commemoration of the 1995 Genocide in Srebrenica
July 12	Malala Day
12 July	International Day of Combating Sand and Dust Storms
July 15th	World Youth Skills Day Theme: Youth Skills for Peace and Development
July 17	World Day for International Justice
July 18th	Nelson Mandela International Day Theme: Combating poverty and inequality is in our hands
July 20th	International Chess Day
July 20th	International Moon Day Theme: Illuminating the Shadows
July 22	National Mango Day
July 22	World Brain Day Theme: Brain Health and Prevention
July 23	National Broadcasting Day in India
July 24	National Income Tax Day Theme: Celebrating the Contribution of Taxpayers to Nation Building
July 25	World Drowning Prevention Day Theme: Anyone can drown, no one should
July 26	Kargil Vijay Diwas
July 28th	World Hepatitis Day Theme: It's time for action





Important Days of June 2024

Date	Day & Theme
June 2	International Sex Workers' Day,
June 3	World Bicycle Day Theme: Promoting Health, Equity, and Sustainability through Cycling
June 4	International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression Theme: Protecting Children in Armed Conflicts
June 5th	World Environment Day Theme: 'Land restoration, desertification, and drought resilience'
June 6th	UN Russian Language Day
June 7th	World Food Safety Day Theme: Food Safety: Prepare for the Unexpected
June 7th	International Year of Quantum Science and Technology Theme:
June 8	World Oceans Day Theme: Awaken New Depths
9th June	International Archives Day
June 9th	World Accreditation Day Theme: Accreditation: Empowering Tomorrow and Shaping the Future
June 11	International Day of Play Theme: Play Unites Us All
June 12	World Day Against Child Labour Theme: Let's act on our commitments: End Child Labour
June 13th	International Albinism Awareness Day Theme: 10 years of IAAD: A decade of collective progress
June 14	World Blood Donor Day Theme: 20 years of celebrating giving: thank you blood donors!
June 15th	World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Theme: Spotlight on Older Persons in Emergencies
June 15th	Global Wind Day' Theme: Pawan-Urja: Powering the Future of India
June 16th	International Day of Family Remittances Theme: Digital remittances towards financial inclusion and cost reduction
June 17th	World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought Theme: United for Land. Our Legacy. Our Future
June 18th	International Day for Countering Hate Speech Theme: Investing in the Power of Youth for Countering and Addressing Hate Speech
June 18th	Sustainable Gastronomy Day Theme: More Taste, Less Waste
19 June	World Sickle Cell Day Theme: Hope through progress: Advancing Sickle Cell Care Globally
June 20th	World Refugee Day Theme: For a World Where Refugees Are Welcomed
June 21st	International Yoga Day Theme: Yoga for Self and Society
June 21st	World Music Day
June 21st	World Hydrography Day Theme: Hydrographic Information - Enhancing Safety, Efficiency and Sustainability in Marine Activities
June 22nd	World Rainforest Day Theme: Empowering the World in Defense of Our Rainforests."
June 23rd	International Widows' Day Theme: Accelerating the Achievement of Gender Equality
June 23rd	United Nations Public Service Day Theme: Fostering Innovation amid Global Challenges: A Public Sector Perspective
June 23rd	International Olympic Day Theme: Let's Move and Celebrate
June 24th	International Day of Women in Diplomacy Theme: Women's Leadership in Multilateral Diplomacy
June 26th	International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking Theme: The evidence is clear: invest in prevention
June 26th	International Day in Support of Victims of Torture Theme: Voices Against Torture: A Call for Global Justice and Human Rights





Date	Day & Theme
June 27	Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSME) Day Theme: Leveraging Power and Resilience of Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) to Accelerate Sustainable Development and Eradicate Poverty in Times of Multiple Crises
June 27	International Pineapple Day
June 28	National Insurance Awareness Day Theme: Protecting What Matters Most
June 29	International Day of the Tropics Theme: Putting Oceans First - Focusing on The Tropics
June 29th	National Statistics Day Theme: Use of Data for Decision Making
June 30th	International Day of Parliamentarism Theme: Parliamentary diplomacy: Building bridges for peace and understanding

Obituaries (National/International)

Obituaries (National/International) of December 2024

NATIONAL

S.No	PERSON NAME	FIELD	BORN PLACE	KEY NOTES
1	SM Krishna	Politics	Maddur, Karnataka	Former Chief Minister of Karnataka; known as the "architect of Brand Bengaluru"; served as Union Minister for External Affairs and Governor of Maharashtra.
2	Purushottam Upadhyay	Music (Singer & Composer)	Bhadran, Gujarat	Renowned Gujarati singer and composer; known for timeless compositions; deeply impacted Gujarati music and culture globally; cherished for his melodious voice.

INTERNATIONAL

S.No	PERSON NAME	FIELD	BORN PLACE	KEY NOTES
1	Nikki Giovanni	Literature (Poet)	Knoxville, Tennessee, USA	Renowned poet and key figure in the Black Arts Movement; celebrated for works on Black liberation, love, and social justice; influential in 1960s and beyond.

Obituaries (National/International) of November 2024

NATIONAL

S.No	Person Name	Field	Born Place	Key Notes
1	Justice K.S. Puttaswamy	Law & Judiciary	India	Petitioner in landmark case establishing the Right to Privacy as a fundamental right; passed away at 98.
2	Bibek Debroy	Economics	India	Economist and Chairman of PM's Economic Advisory Council (EAC-PM); passed away at 69.
3	Rohit Bal	Fashion Design	India	Renowned Indian designer celebrated for his intricate craftsmanship; passed away at 63.
4	Sharda Sinha	Bihar Kokila	India	Legendary folk singer, Sharda Sinha, known fondly as the "Bihar Kokila" (Nightingale of Bihar) has passed away at age 72 due to complications from cancer. Sinha's voice brought joy and pride to countless people, especially those who celebrated the traditional festivals of Bihar.
5	Harinder Singh Sodhi (Billy)	Polo	-	Passed away at 86 due to age-related issues. A legendary Indian polo player with a rare plus-five handicap. Received the Arjuna Award.





S.No	Person Name	Field	Born Place	Key Notes
6	Pandit Ram Narayan	Sarangi virtuoso	Mumbai	Passed away on November 8, 2024, at 96. Transformed the sarangi into a prominent solo instrument in Hindustani classical music.
7	Mahendra Singh Mewar	Politics (Former BJP MP)	Udaipur, Rajasthan	Passed away on November 10, 2024, at 83 after prolonged illness. Member of the Mewar royal family.
8	'Delhi' Ganesh	Acting	-	Passed away at 80. Renowned Tamil actor with remarkable versatility in over 400 films.
9	Varadarao Kamalakara Rao	Mridangam Artist & Scholar	Rajahmundry	Passed away at 88. Known for innovative techniques and contributions to Indian classical music, inspiring generations with his exceptional rhythm.
10	Justice Harjit Singh Bedi	former Supreme Court judge and ex-Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court		Renowned for reviewing alleged fake encounter cases in Gujarat, he was a distinguished figure in the judiciary. His cremation is set for Friday in Chandigarh.
11	Shashikant Ruia	Business (Essar Group)	-	Co-founder and Chairman of Essar Group; transformed Essar into a global conglomerate.
12	Professor Amiya Kumar Bagchi	Economics (Economic History)	-	Renowned economic historian and macroeconomist; contributed significantly to understanding colonial India's economy.

INTERNATIONAL

S.No	PERSON NAME	FIELD	BORN PLACE	KEY NOTES
1	John Prescott	Deputy prime minister of the UK	UK	John Prescott, former deputy prime minister of the UK, passed away at 86. A prominent figure in the Labour Party and trade union movement, Prescott modernized the party while upholding its working-class values. Known for his plain-speaking style, he made significant contributions to environmental policy and social justice, leaving a lasting impact on British politics.
2	Princess Mikasa	Royalty	Japan	Passed away at 101. The oldest member of Japan's royal family.
3	Breyten Breytenbach	Literature (Poetry, Memoirs)	South Africa	Anti-apartheid activist, poet, and memoirist; passed away at 85 in Paris.
4	John Tinniswood	Longevity	Liverpool, UK	World's oldest man at 112; lived through major historical events, including both World Wars.

Obituaries (National/International) of October 2024

S.No.	Person Died	Profession/Famous In
1	Dame Maggie Smith	Actor (National-International) - Known for roles in Harry Potter and Downton Abbey
2	Mohanraj	Actor (National - Malayalam Film Industry) - Famous for the role of "Keerikkadan Jose" in Kireedam
3	Ratan Tata	Businessman (National-International) - Chairman of Tata Sons, renowned industrialist and philanthropist
4	Dr. P. Venugopal	Medical Professional (National-International) - Former Director of AIIMS and celebrated cardiac surgeon
5	Indranand Singh Jha	Former radio presenter and compere at Akashvani Darbhanga
6	Atul Parchure	Renowned Marathi actor (theater, cinema, television)
7	Justice Puttaswamy K.S.	Pivotal petitioner in the landmark right to privacy case, passed away at the age of 98
8	Bibek Debroy	Prominent economist and chairman of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council (EAC-PM),





Obituaries (National/International) of September 2024

- The tennis world mourns the loss of a true legend as **Luis Ayala**, one of Chile's most celebrated athletes, passed away at the age of 91. The **Chilean Tennis Federation** made the somber announcement on Wednesday, marking the end of an era in South American tennis history.
- Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader Shri. **Sitaram Yechury** passed away. He died at the age of 72 at AIMS hospital in New Delhi. From India most of the political leaders have offered condolence to him. He was born in Chennai in 1952 and is a prominent figure in Indian Politics.

Obituaries (National/International) of August 2024

- On August 3, 2024, India lost one of its most revered classical dancers, **Yamini Krishnamurthy**, who passed away at the age of 83 at Apollo hospital in New Delhi.
- The cricketing world mourns the loss of **Graham Thorpe**, a former England cricketer and coach, who passed away on Monday at the age of 55.
- The passing of **Shobhana Ranade** at the age of 99 in Pune marks the end of an era in India's social reform movement. A renowned **Gandhian** and **Padma Bhushan** recipient,
- **Former chief minister of West Bengal** and veteran **CPIM leader Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee** passed away on August 8, at his residence in **Kolkata's Palm Avenue**. Buddhadeb, who had been suffering from **chronic obstructive pulmonary**,
- **Chinese-American physicist Tsung-Dao Lee**, who in 1957 became the **second-youngest scientist** to receive a **Nobel Prize**, died on August 4, at his home in San Francisco at age 97.
- The academic community mourns the loss of **H. Devaraj**, former Vice-Chairman of the **University Grants Commission (UGC)**, who passed away at the age of 71.
- **Susan Wojcicki**, a pioneering figure in the tech industry and **former CEO of YouTube**, has passed away at the age of 56 following a **two-year battle with cancer**.
- Former **External Affairs Minister Natwar Singh** passed away at 95, due to a prolonged illness on August 10. He took his last breath at Medanta Hospital in **Gurugram near Delhi**.
- Dr. Ram Narain Agarwal, a **renowned Indian scientist** and the driving force behind India's missile program, passed away on Thursday in Hyderabad at the age of 84. Known affectionately as the '**Father of Agni Missiles**'.
- **Director General of the Indian Coast Guard, Rakesh Pal**, died of a severe cardiac arrest in Chennai.
- The **world's oldest person, Spain's Maria Branyas Morera**, who was born in the **US in 1907** and lived through two world wars, has died at the age of 117, her family said.
- Former Chief of Army Staff **General Sundararajan Padmanabhan**, who passed away at his **Chennai residence** on August 19, was cremated with full military honours at **Besant Nagar** on August 20.
- Dr. **Girish Sahni**, the former director-general of the **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)**, passed away on August 19, 2024, at the age of 68.

- Veteran Congress leader and recently elected **Nanded MP, Vasantrao Chavan**, passed away at **4 a.m. on August 26, 2024**, at **KIMS Hospital in Hyderabad**.
- Former **Lebanese Prime Minister Salim Hoss**, a key figure during Lebanon's turbulent years, has passed away at the **age of 94**.
- The cycling world mourns the loss of **Daniela Larreal Chirinos**, a celebrated **Venezuelan Olympic cyclist** who passed away at the age of 51.
- **New Zealand's Māori King, Kiingi Tuheitia Pootatau Te Wherowhero VII**, passed away on August 30, 2024, at the **age of 69**, just days after celebrating **18 years on the throne**.

Obituaries (National/International) of July 2024

- Former India midfielder **Bhupinder Singh Rawat**, who played in the **1969 Merdeka Cup in Malaysia** died after a brief illness, the All India Football Federation (AIFF) stated. A speedy winger of the 1960s and 1970s, Rawat played for India in the 1969 Merdeka tournament in Malaysia. Domestically, he played for **Delhi Garrison, Gorkha Brigade and Mafatlal**.
- **Robert Towne**, the acclaimed screenwriter whose work shaped the landscape of American cinema in the 1970s and beyond, passed away on Monday, December 4, 2023, at his home in Los Angeles. He was 89 years old.
- Veteran actor **Smriti Biswas** died on July 3 at the **age of 100**. The actor, best known for her work in **Bengali, Hindi, and Marathi films**, breathed her last at her house in **Nashik** due to age-related illness. Social media too is flooded with condolence posts for **Smriti Biswas** with many sharing pictures of the actor from her various films.
- **Jon Landau**, the Oscar-winning producer known for his collaborations with director James Cameron on blockbuster films like Titanic and the Avatar series, has died at the age of 63.
- **Aparna Vastarey**, a cherished **Kannada actress** and the familiar voice behind Namma Metro's announcements, has **passed away at the age of 57**. She succumbed to lung cancer on July 11, with her husband breaking the news to her fans via social media. He disclosed that Aparna was in the advanced **fourth stage of cancer** at the time of her death.
- The stationery industry in India lost a pioneer with the passing of **Subhash Dandekar**, the founder of the iconic brand **Camlin**. At the age of 86, Dandekar left behind a legacy that transformed the landscape of stationery and art supplies in the country. His vision and leadership not only built a household name but also contributed significantly to India's industrial and social development.
- **Kamala Pujari**, the **renowned Padma Shri** awardee and pioneering organic farmer, **passed away at the age of 74 due to kidney-related ailments**.
- On July 23, 2024, the world of economics lost a brilliant mind and compassionate soul. **C.T. Kurien**, a distinguished economist and former professor of Madras Christian College, passed away at the age of 93 due to age-related ailments.





- Vasai-based **Catholic priest Father Francis D'Britto**, writer and environmentalist, who translated the Bible into Marathi, passed away on July 25, 2024, after prolonged illness.
- **Hamzah Haz**, the vice-president of Indonesia from 2001 to 2004, has died. He was aged 84. Hamzah, who served under President Megawati Soekarnoputri.
- **World Hepatitis Day**, observed annually on **July 28th**, serves as a global platform to raise awareness about viral hepatitis, a group of infectious diseases that cause inflammation of the liver and can lead to severe liver disease and cancer.

Obituaries (National/International) of June 2024

- The world of wildlife conservation has lost a **pioneering figure** with the passing of **A.J.T. Johnsingh**, a renowned **wildlife field biologist and conservationist**, in Bengaluru at the age of 78.
- **Retired astronaut William Anders**, one of the first three humans to orbit the moon, who captured the **"Earthrise" photo** during **NASA's Apollo 8 mission**, died on June 7 when the **small plane**, he was piloting, **crashed in Washington state**.
- **Malawi Vice President Saulos Chilima** and **nine other people**, including his wife, were killed as the **plane** they were onboard **crashed in the Chikangawa mountain range**, said President **Lazarus Chakwera**. The aircraft carrying Chilima, who was being seen as the **presidential candidate** in next year's **general elections** in Malawi, went missing .

- **Mumbai Cricket Association president Amol Kale** has passed away due to cardiac arrest in **New York**. Kale had travelled to United States and watched the **India vs Pakistan match** live from the **Nassau County International Cricket Stadium** along with MCA secretary **Ajinkya Naik** and apex council member **Suraj Samat** on June 9.
- The Indian classical music fraternity mourns the loss of the illustrious **Sarod maestro Pandit Rajeev Taranath**, who breathed his last on June 11, 2024, at the age of 91. The veteran musician, who was undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Mysuru for a fracture, passed away.
- Veteran sports journalist **Harpal Singh Bedi**, who covered several highs and lows of Indian sports in a career spanning over four decades, served as the **national Olympic contingent's press attache** in 2012 and charmed the media box with his inimitable wit and warmth, died after prolonged illness in New Delhi on June 15.
- The state of **Odisha** mourns the loss of **Murlidhar Chandrakant Bhandare**, the former **Governor** of the state, who passed away on **June 15** at the age of **95**.
- The **Canadian actor Donald Sutherland**, star of films including **The Hunger Games** and **Don't Look Now**, has died at 88 after a long illness.
- **Frank Duckworth**, the English statistician who co-invented the **Duckworth-Lewis-Stern (DLS)** method for determining cricket match results under rain-affected conditions, **died at 84** on June 21. The **DLS method, introduced in 1997**, is widely used in **international cricket** and was formally adopted by the **ICC in 2001**.

Miscellaneous Current Affairs | One-Liners

Miscellaneous Current Affairs | One-Liners of December 2024

- **Vikrant Massey**, renowned for his versatile performances across **TV, films, and OTT**, has announced his retirement from acting at **37** after nearly two decades in the industry. He shared the news through an emotional **Instagram** note and plans to complete two final projects before retiring in **2025**.

Miscellaneous Current Affairs | One-Liners of November 2024

- In the heart of the North Sea, an ambitious green energy project is taking shape. Named after **Belgium's Princess Elisabeth**, this groundbreaking **energy island** represents a bold step towards renewable energy transformation. At a bustling shipyard along the North Sea coast, workers are constructing massive concrete structures that will form the foundation of this world-first initiative.
- **Typhoon Kong-rey made landfall in Taiwan** on 31st October 2024. Considered the largest typhoon to directly impact Taiwan in nearly 30 years. Made landfall on Taiwan's eastern coast around 13:40 local time (04:40 GMT)

- Collins Dictionary has selected "brat" as its Word of the Year for 2024, reflecting shifting social dynamics and pop culture influences. Once synonymous with misbehaving children, the term has evolved, largely through British singer Charli XCX's album, to embody a confident, independent, and hedonistic attitude.
- Tropical Storm Sara made landfall in northern Honduras, near Brus Laguna, on Thursday, bringing heavy rain and flooding risks to Central America and southern Mexico.

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- New Delhi's Sarai Kale Khan Chowk was renamed Bhagwan Birsa Munda Chowk on the occasion of his 150th birth anniversary. The change was announced by Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar.
- A potential cyclone, named 'Fengal' by Saudi Arabia, is forming in the **Bay of Bengal**, according to the **India Meteorological Department (IMD)**. Starting as a cyclonic circulation on **November 21** near the South Andaman Sea, it is expected to develop into a **Low Pressure Area (LPA)** by **November 23** and intensify into a depression by **November 24**. This follows the impact of **Cyclone Dana** on **Odisha** in **October 2024**.
- **Operation Tamarisk** was a **covert Cold War intelligence operation** involving **U.S., U.K., and French** agents. The mission targeted **Soviet troops** in **East Germany**, collecting and analyzing **discarded waste** (food scraps, letters, used toilet paper) for intelligence. The operation, known as **Tamarisk**, aimed to gain any advantage in the intense rivalry between the **United States** and the **Soviet Union**.

Miscellaneous Current Affairs | One-Liners of October 2024

- **The Military Nursing Service (MNS)** marked its **99th Raising Day** on Oct 1, 2024 with solemnity and pride. Maj Gen Ignatius Delos Flora, Additional Director General of Military Nursing Services laid a wreath at the National War Memorial, in the presence of senior MNS officers and veterans.
- As Hurricane Milton threatens the Florida coast, residents of the **Tampa Bay region** are evacuating in droves, fearing a potentially catastrophic storm. Hurricane Milton regained strength on Tuesday afternoon, becoming a Category 5 storm with winds reaching 165 mph (265 kph). Predictions indicate the storm could make landfall in the densely populated Tampa Bay area, which has over 3.3 million residents. The National Hurricane Center has warned of heavy rainfall and storm surges, with some areas expected to receive up to 18 inches of rain.
- An 18-year-old Nepali mountaineer, **Nima Rinji Sherpa**, made history on Wednesday by becoming the youngest person to summit all **14 of the world's 8,000-meter** (26,246-foot) peaks. His remarkable achievement was sealed after successfully reaching the summit of Tibet's 26,335-foot Shisha Pangma.
- In a tribute to the legacy of **Ratan Naval Tata**, the **Bihar Postal Circle** has released a special cover commemorating his contributions to industry, philanthropy, and national development. This gesture serves not only as a tribute but also as a reminder of his enduring values and leadership.
- On October 4, 2024, Dr. Ajit Kumar Mohanty inaugurated the Major Atmospheric Cherenkov Experiment (MACE) Observatory in Hanle, Ladakh. MACE is the **largest imaging Cherenkov telescope** in Asia and the **highest in the world** at

about **4,300 meters** altitude. Developed by the **Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC)** with support from **Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL)** and other partners, this facility marks a significant milestone in India's **astrophysical research**. Its inauguration aligns with the **Platinum Jubilee** of the **Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)**, highlighting a strong commitment to scientific advancement.

- **The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)**, the world's largest voluntary organization, is entering its 100th year on the auspicious occasion of Vijaydashami. Founded on this very day in 1925, also known as Dussehra, the RSS has grown exponentially over the past nine decades, expanding its reach across India and abroad.
- Arjun Vajpai Becomes First Indian to Conquer Mt. Shishapangma. **Arjun Vajpai, the youngest person** to climb Mt. Everest, has once again made India proud by accomplishing another historic feat. On October 9, 2024, Arjun Vajpai stood atop Mt. **Shishapangma**, completing his 8th successful summit of a peak over 8,000 meters.
- On the auspicious occasion of Dussehra, former **cricketer Ajay Jadeja has been officially declared the heir to the throne of Jamnagar by his uncle**, the Maharaja Shatrushalyasinh Jadeja. At the age of 53, Ajay Jadeja is set to take on the title of the new Jamsaheb, the titular head of the historic princely state of Jamnagar, marking a significant moment in both his life and the legacy of the Jadeja family.
- **External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar** inaugurated the revamped **eMigrate V2.0 web portal and mobile app in Delhi**, aiming to enhance safe and legal migration for Indian citizens. This initiative underscores the Indian government's commitment to protecting the rights and dignity of workers abroad while facilitating their mobility and welfare.
- **State-owned Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML)** has been awarded a contract worth **₹866.87 crore by Integral Coach Factory (ICF)** to design, manufacture, and commission **India's first indigenously built bullet trains**. This project marks a significant milestone in India's high-speed rail journey, as it will feature two high-speed trainsets, each comprising eight cars, with a **test speed of 280 km/h** and an **operational speed of 250 km/h**.
- The World Health Organization **secured \$1 billion in pledges** during a fundraising event in Berlin, marking a significant initiative to reform its funding model and enhance its ability to address global health emergencies.
- **South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL)**, a Chhattisgarh-based subsidiary of Coal India, has opened its **fourth AMRIT (Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment) Pharmacy**, making it the first coal company to do so. This **216th AMRIT pharmacy**, located at SECL's Health Centre in Indira Vihar Colony, Bilaspur, will provide generic and life-saving medicines at highly subsidized rates, benefiting SECL employees, the general public, and underserved tribal and rural communities.





- Kaksar Bridge was renamed Capt. Amit Bhardwaj Setu to honor the sacrifice of **Capt. Amit Bhardwaj during the Kargil War**. The event, attended by prominent military and civil officials, including **CEC Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoon** and **Major General K. Mahesh, SM**, celebrated Bhardwaj's bravery and dedication to his nation.
- On the evening of **October 17, 2024**, the **Israel Defense Forces (IDF)** made a significant announcement: **Yahya Sinwar**, the head of Hamas in Gaza, was killed during a targeted ground operation in **Rafah**, located in southern Gaza. Sinwar, one of the most feared and influential leaders of Hamas, was among three high-ranking Hamas militants killed during this mission.
- The **20th edition of Jazzmandu**, also known as the Kathmandu Jazz Festival, is set to light up Kathmandu with an electrifying week of jazz, world music, and cultural fusion from **October 24 to October 30, 2024**. Celebrating two decades of rich musical exchange, this year's festival is marked by a star-studded lineup featuring international jazz icons and Nepalese musical talent. Jazzmandu has firmly established itself as one of the premier jazz festivals in South Asia.
- In the heart of the North Sea, an ambitious green energy project is taking shape. Named after **Belgium's Princess Elisabeth**, this groundbreaking **energy island** represents a bold step towards renewable energy transformation. At a bustling shipyard along the North Sea coast, workers are constructing massive concrete structures that will form the foundation of this world-first initiative.
- **Typhoon Kong-rey made landfall in Taiwan** on 31st October 2024. Considered the largest typhoon to directly impact Taiwan in nearly 30 years. Made landfall on Taiwan's eastern coast around 13:40 local time (04:40 GMT).
- **The Home Minister of India Shri. Amit Shah** has announced the decision on renaming the **Port Blair in Andaman and Nicobar Islands to Sri Vijaya Puram**.
- Doordarshan, India's esteemed public service broadcaster, marks its **65th anniversary on September 15, 2024**. Established on this date in 1959, Doordarshan has been a pillar of Indian media, fostering unity, culture, and education. From its modest start with experimental broadcasts in Delhi, it has grown into one of the world's largest broadcasting organizations, adapting to technological advancements while upholding its public service mandate.
- In a significant policy shift, the Indian government has removed the **\$950 per tonne minimum export price (MEP)** on basmati rice. This decision, made in response to falling domestic paddy prices and trade pressures, aims to enhance export opportunities and support farmers' incomes. The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) will now oversee basmati rice exports without a floor price to ensure fair pricing and transparency.
- Union Minister for **MSME, Shri Jitan Ram Manjhi**, inaugurated the **Centre for Rural Enterprise Acceleration through Technology (CREATE) at Leh** via virtual mode. The event was attended by various dignitaries including the Minister of State for MSME, the Lieutenant Governor of UT-Ladakh, the Chairman of KVIC, and other officials from the Ministry of MSME, UT-Ladakh, KVIC, and MGIRI, along with around 200 local artisans.
- In an effort to encourage voter participation in the upcoming Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Elections, the **Office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO)**, J&K, launched the **theme song 'Vote Ka Tyohar'**.
- The **19th edition of the Divya Kala Mela** was inaugurated in **Visakhapatnam by the Hon. Governor of Andhra Pradesh, Shri S. Abdul Nazeer**, alongside dignitaries like **Dr. Virendra Kumar**, Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, and other MPs. The event provided concessional loans of ₹40 lakh to 10 Divyang beneficiaries under NDFDC schemes and distributed assistive devices with the support of CSR partners such as HPCL, GAIL India, and IOCL.
- **Megastar Chiranjeevi** has been officially recognized by **Guinness World Records as the most prolific actor/dancer** in the Indian film industry. Over 45 years, he has performed an astonishing **24,000 dance moves in 537 songs across 156 films**. This honor was conferred on September 20, 2024, during a special event where Chiranjeevi expressed gratitude for the recognition, attributing his success to the art of dance and the collaboration with directors, producers, and choreographers.

Miscellaneous Current Affairs | One-Liners of September 2024

- **Siddhartha Aggarwal from Bengaluru** has made history by becoming the oldest Indian to **swim solo across the English Channel**. On August 29, at the age of 49, Aggarwal completed the 42 km swim in 15 hours and six minutes. His remarkable achievement surpasses the previous record set by **Srikanth Viswanathan, who swam the Channel solo at age 46 in 2018**.
- The Quality Council of India (QCI) has provisionally approved **National Test House (NTH), Ghaziabad**, as a certification body for type certification of drones under the Drone Rules 2021. NTH will assess agricultural drones, including **Vimaana Aerospace Technologies' Krishiraj 1.0**, and provide low-cost certification services to support the growing drone sector in India.
- Researchers have identified a new cousin species from a ginger family called **turmeric, Genus Curcuma** at Ungma village in Mokochung district in the state of Nagaland, this information related research paper published by the botanical survey of India.





Miscellaneous Current Affairs | One-Liners of June 2024

- The **Film Federation of India** has officially announced that filmmaker **Kiran Rao's** "Laapataa Ladies" has been chosen as **India's official entry** in the **Best Foreign Film Category** for the **Oscars 2025**. This selection marks a significant milestone for the film and its creators, putting it on the global stage of cinema.
- The **Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan**, a groundbreaking initiative by the Central Government of India, has chosen **Mana village** in the Joshimath block of Chamoli district for implementation. This selection marks a significant step towards improving the socio-economic conditions of tribal communities in the region.
- During Prime Minister **Narendra Modi's** recent visit to the United States, a landmark event took place that marked a significant victory in India's ongoing efforts to reclaim its cultural treasures. In a ceremony of great cultural and diplomatic importance, **297 antiquities** were officially handed over to **India by U.S. authorities**.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has **gifted US President Joe Biden a silver train** model made by master artisans from Maharashtra and **First Lady Jill Biden a Pashmina shawl** in a papier mache box.
- **Wabtec Locomotive Private Limited**, a joint venture between **Indian Railways and Wabtec**, is set to enhance its **Marhowra plant's** capabilities by exporting Evolution Series ES43ACmi locomotives to global customers, particularly in Africa, starting in 2025. This initiative marks the plant's inaugural venture into manufacturing locomotives for export, underscoring India's growing prominence in the global locomotive manufacturing sector.
- An extraordinary mountaineering achievement, of a team from the **National Institute of Mountaineering and Adventure Sports (NIMAS)**, has successfully scaled an unnamed and unclimbed 6383 MSL or 20,942 ft high peak in **Gorichen range of Arunachal Pradesh Himalayas on Tawang-West Kameng region**.
- **Delhi Chief Minister Atishi** has announced a significant increase in the minimum wages for workers in the capital, effective October 1. Unskilled workers will now **earn ₹18,066, semi-skilled workers ₹19,929, and skilled workers ₹21,917 per month**. Atishi emphasized that under **Arvind Kejriwal's leadership**, Delhi boasts the highest minimum wages in the country, a historic step aimed at preventing the exploitation of the poor.
- Union Minister for Road, Transport and Highways **Shri. Nitin Gadkari Ji**, set to inaugurate **Oxygen Bird Park** (Amrit Mahotsav Park) on the Nagpur-Hyderabad National highway 44 in Nagpur, in state of Maharashtra.
- Delhi Lieutenant Governor (LG) **Shri. L. G. Saxena** launched the **Dust Free Drive** across the cities to combat the Air Pollution. This step looks to be important ahead of the tough and harsh air pollution in the winter in the Capital of Country.

- Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has announced the launch of a new **MA programme in Bhagavad Gita Studies** for the academic session **2024-2025**. The course will begin in July 2024 and will be offered through **open and distance learning (ODL)**.
- **Union Minister Nitin Gadkari** launched **Bajaj Auto's new bike, Freedom, the world's first CNG motorcycle**. He praised it as "**eco-friendly**" and "**sustainable**," highlighting the significant issues of air, sound, and water pollution, and the high cost of fossil fuel imports in India.
- The ambitious project to build the "**world's largest Ramayan temple**" has entered its second phase of construction in **East Champaran district** of Bihar. The **Viraat Ramayan Mandir**, as it is known, promises to be a monumental structure that will surpass the size of the recently constructed Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, drawing inspiration from various architectural marvels across Asia.
- International mountaineer **Nitish Singh** left for **Mount Kinabalu**, the highest peak in Malaysia, when the rain subsided. He conquered it at 5:30 am on July 9 and hoisted the **tricolor** there. International mountaineer Nitish Singh, a resident of Gorakhpur, UP, has created a new record by hoisting the tricolor on **Kinabalu**, the highest peak of **Malaysia**.
- **Manvi Madhu Kashyap** and two other transgender individuals have made history by becoming the **first transwoman sub-inspectors in Bihar Police**. Despite facing rejection and discrimination from coaching centers, Kashyap persevered and cleared the Bihar Police Subordinate Selection Commission (BPSSC) exams.
- **Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA)** has launched the trial operation of the **world's first electric abra manufactured using 3D printing technology**, in collaboration with the private sector. The abra, which can carry 20 passengers, was designed, and built to retain the traditional abra identity.

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- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated **India's longest and largest urban tunnel** project, the **Thane Borivali Twin Tunnel**, developed by the **Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA)**. This Rs. 16,600 crore project will reduce travel time between Thane and Borivali from over an hour to just 12 minutes, cutting the travel distance by 12 km. This initiative is part of broader infrastructure projects worth **Rs. 29,000 crore** aimed at enhancing connectivity in Mumbai.
- Ratings agency **ICRA** has upgraded the rating of **Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ)** to AAA/Stable from AA+/Stable. The company's long-term fund based/non-fund based facilities, non-convertible debentures (NCDs) and commercial papers have been upgraded to AAA/Stable. APSEZ announced the development after market hours and the Adani Ports shares on July 18 ended at Rs 1,491.95 on the NSE, down by **Rs 7.10 or 0.47%**.
- **Dr Neeraj Mittal**, Secretary (Telecom) has inaugurated a **centre of excellence** on "**Classical and Quantum Communications for 6G**" at **IITM Research Park, Chennai**. This is a **sub-centre of Telecom Centres of Excellence (TCoE)-India** and it will spearhead the development and deployment of 6G technology, promising unprecedented speeds, ultra-low latency, and enhanced connectivity. Shri Sanjeev Kumar Bidwai, Sp DGT, **Tamil Nadu** was among those present at the occasion.
- The **Ahom dynasty's Moidams in Assam** have been officially inscribed on the **UNESCO World Heritage List** as **India's 43rd entry**. Announced on July 26, 2024, during the **46th session** of the World Heritage Committee in New Delhi, this makes the Moidams the first cultural property from Northeast India to receive this honor. The nomination was submitted on July

4, 2024, and underscores the global recognition of Assam's unique cultural heritage.

Miscellaneous Current Affairs | One-Liners of July 2024

- **Congress nominee** and Minister Satish Jarkiholi's daughter **Priyanka Jarkiholi** has won from Chikkodi, defeating incumbent MP and BJP leader **Annasaheb Jolle**. Priyanka Jarkiholi **from Chikkodi** became the youngest tribal woman to enter Parliament from an **unreserved seat in Karnataka** since Independence. In fact, the BJP has won all the seats in Mumbai Karnataka, except Chikkodi.
- **Oxford University's Ashmolean Museum** has decided to return a **16th-century bronze sculpture of Saint Tirumankai Alvar to India**, following a formal request from the Indian government. The 60cm-tall statue, believed to have been stolen from a temple in Tamil Nadu, was acquired by the museum in 1967 from Sotheby's auction house. The decision comes after an independent researcher alerted the museum to the statue's origins, prompting the museum to notify the Indian High Commission.
- The **Indian Railways** completed a successful trial of an **electric engine from Sangaldan to Reasi**, crossing the **world's highest steel arch rail bridge, the Chenab Bridge**.
- Aiming to enable passengers to drop in their luggage, collect tags and print boarding passes to complete check-in in less time, the **Delhi International Airport Ltd** launched a **self-service mechanism** on 17 June.
- According to the Union Ministry of Education, the Union Territory of Ladakh has achieved full functional literacy under the **ULLAS-Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram**. Ladakh now boasts over 97 percent literacy. **Lieutenant Governor Dr. B.D Mishra** shared this milestone on June 25, 2024, at a function in **Sindhu Sanskritik Kendra (SSK), Leh**.

Static Takeaways Current Affairs

Static Takeaways Current Affairs of December 2024

Sr. No	Bank/Orgn./Country/States	Static Details
1	ISRO	Chairman - S Somnath Head Office - Bengaluru
2	ESA (European Space Agency)	Director General - Josef Aschbacher Head Office - Paris, France
3	RBI	Governor - Shashikant Das Head Office - Mumbai
4	SEBI	Chairperson - Madhabi Buch Head Office - Mumbai
5	Navi Finserv.	MD & CEO - Sachin Bansal Head Office - Bengaluru
6	TATA Motors	CEO & MD - Marc Llistosella Head Office - Worli, Mumbai
7	World Bank	President - Ajay Banga Head Office - Washington D.C.





Sr. No	Bank/Orgn./Country/States	Static Details
8	National Small Industries Corporation Limited	MD - Dr. Subhransu Sekhar Acharya Head Office - Bengaluru
9	Kuwait	Emir - Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Capital - Kuwait City
10	Sri Lanka	President - Anura Kumara Disanayake Capital - Colombo
11	Bhutan	PM - Tshering Tobgay Capital - Thimphu
12	Singapore	PM _ Mr. LEE Hsien Loong Capital - Singapore City
13	Namibia	President - Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah Capital - Windhoek
14	Maharashtra	Governor - C.P. Radhakrishnan CM - Devendra Fadnavis Capital - Mumbai
15	Jharkhand	Governor - Santosh Gangwar CM - Hemant Soren Capital - Ranchi
16	Assam	Governor - Lakshman Prasad Acharya CM - Himanta Sarma Capital - Dispur
17	Arunachal Pradesh	Governor - Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik CM - Pema Khandu Capital - Itanagar
18	West Bengal	Governor - C.V. Ananda Bose CM - Mamta Banerjee Capital - Kolkata
19	Telangana	Governor - Jishnu Dev Varma CM - Revanth Reddy Capital - Hyderabad
20	Uttar Pradesh	Governor - Anandiben Patel CM - Yogi Adityanath Capital - Lucknow

Sr. No	Bank Name/Orgn./Country/States	Static Details
1	RBI	Governor - Sanjay Malhotra Head Office - Mumbai
2	SBI	MD - Challa Sreenivasulu Shetty Head Office - Mumbai
3	Yes Bank	MD - Prashant Kumar Head Office - Mumbai
4	Max Life Insurance	MD - Mr. Prashant Tripathy Head Office - New Delhi
5	AMUL	MD - Jayen Mehta Head Office - Anand, Gujarat





Sr. No	Bank Name/Orgn./Country/States	Static Details
6	ADB (Asian Development Bank)	President - Masatsugu Asakawa Head Office - Manila, Philippines
7	USA	President - Joe Biden (Donald Trump will take office from January 20) Capital - Washington D.C.
8	Switzerland	President - viola Amherd Capital - Bern
9	Ghana	President - Mr. John Mahama Capital - Accra
10	Italy	PM - Giorgia Meloni Capital - Rome
11	Nepal	President - KP Sharma Oli Capital - Kathmandu
12	Syria	President - Mr. Bashir Capital - Damascus
13	UAE	President - Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Capital - Abu Dhabi
14	Rajasthan	Governor - Haribhau Bagade CM - Bhajanlal Sharma Capital - Jaipur
15	Uttarakhand	Governor - Gurmit Singh CM - Pushkar Dhami Capital - Dehradun
16	Delhi	L.Governor - Vinai Kumar Saxena CM - Atishi Capital - New Delhi
17	Haryana	Governor - Bandaru Dattatreya CM - Nayab Singh Saini Capital - Chandigarh
18	Arunachal Pradesh	Governor - Kaiwalya Parnaik CM - Pema Khandu Capital - Itanagar
19	Andhra Pradesh	Governor - S. Abdul Nazeer CM - Chandrababu Naidu Capital - Amaravati
20	Minister of Railway	Shri. Ashwini Vaishnaw
21	Minister of Law and Justice	Shri. Arjun Ram Meghwal
22	UNESCO	HQ - Paris, France
23	UNICEF	HQ - New York, USA

Static Takeaways Current Affairs of November 2024

Sr. No	Organization/Banks/Country/State/UTs	Static Details	HQ
1	World Meteorological Organization (WMO)	Estd. Year - 1950, President - Abdulla Al Mandous, Headquarters - Geneva, Switzerland	Geneva, Switzerland
2	World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)	Estd. Year - 1967, Director General - Daren Tang, Headquarters - Geneva, Switzerland	Geneva, Switzerland





Sr. No	Organization/Banks/Country/State/UTs	Static Details	HQ
3	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	Estd. Year - 1992, Headquarters - Bonn, Germany	Bonn, Germany
4	Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO)	Estd. Year - 1968, Director General - Dr. Manu Korulla, Headquarters - New Delhi	New Delhi
5	Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)	Estd. Year - 1969, Chairman - S. Somnath, Headquarters - Bengaluru	Bengaluru
6	Indian Meteorological Organization (IMD)	Estd. Year - 1875, Director General - Dr. Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, Headquarters - New Delhi	New Delhi
7	Indian Coast Guard (ICG)	Estd. Year - 1977 (Formally in 1978), Director General - Paramesh Sivamani, Headquarters - New Delhi	New Delhi
8	Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)	Estd. Year - 1959, Chairman - Arvindar Singh Sahney, Head office - New Delhi	New Delhi
9	Reserve Bank Of India (RBI)	Estd. Year - 1935, Governor - Shashikant Das, Head office - Mumbai	Mumbai
10	State Bank of India (SBI)	Estd. Year - 1955, Chairman - Challa Sreenivasulu Setty, Head office - Mumbai	Mumbai
11	Asian Development Bank (ADB)	Estd. Year - 1966, Chairman - Masatsugu Asakawa, Head office - Manila, Philippines	Manila, Philippines
12	SoftBank Group Corp.	Estd. Year - 1990, Chairman - Masayoshi Son, Head office - Tokyo, Japan	Tokyo, Japan
13	Tata Power	Chairman - Natarajan Chandrasekaran	-
14	Minister of Finance	Nirmala Sitharaman	-
15	Minister of Home Affairs	Amit Shah	-
16	Minister of Power	Manohar Khattar	-
17	Minister of Communications	Jyotiraditya Scindia	-
18	Minister of Law and Justice	Arjun Ram Meghwal	-
19	Canada	President - Justin Trudeau, Capital - Ottawa, Currency - Canadian Dollar	Ottawa
20	China	President - Xi Jinping, Capital - Beijing, Currency - Yuan	Beijing
21	Japan	PM - Shiegru Ishiba, Capital - Tokyo, Currency - Yen	Tokyo
22	Haiti	President - Jovenel Moise, Capital - Port-au-Prince, Currency - Gourde	Port-au-Prince
23	Mauritius	PM - Dr. Navin Ramgoolam, Capital - Port Louis, Currency - Mauritian Rupee	Port Louis
24	Australia	PM - Anthony Albanese, Capital - Canberra, Currency - Australian Dollar	Canberra
25	Commonwealth of Dominica	PM - Roosevelt Skerrit, Capital - Roseau, Currency - East Caribbean Dollar	Roseau
26	Uttar Pradesh	Governor - Anandiben Patel, CM - Yogi Adityanath, Capital - Lucknow	Lucknow





Sr. No	Organization/Banks/Country/State/UTs	Static Details	HQ
27	Delhi	L. Governor - Vinai Kumar Saxena, CM - Atishi Marlena, Capital - New Delhi	New Delhi
28	Rajasthan	Governor - Haribhau Kisanrao Bagade, CM - Bhajan Lal Sharma, Capital - Jaipur	Jaipur
29	International Labour Organization	Gilbert Hougbo (President)	Geneva, Switzerland
30	International Solar Alliance	Prahlad Joshi (President)	Gurugram
31	FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry)	Dr. Anish Shah (President)	New Delhi
32	SBI	Challa Sreenivasalu Shetty (Chairman)	Mumbai
33	RBI	Shashikant Das (Governor)	Mumbai
34	SEBI	Madhabi Buch (Chairman)	Mumbai
35	NTPC (National Thermal Power Corporation)	Gurdeep Singh (Chairman)	New Delhi
36	International Olympic Committee	Robin Mitchell (President)	Lausanne, Switzerland
37	Punjab and Sind Bank	Dr. Charan Singh (Chairman)	New Delhi
38	Canara Bank	Vijay Sri Rangan (Chairman)	Bengaluru
39	ISRO	S. Somnath (Chairman)	Bengaluru
40	International Finance Corporation	Makhtar Diop (Chairman)	Washington D.C., USA
41	BEML (Bharat Earth Movers Limited)	Shantanu Roy (Chairman)	Bengaluru
42	IDFC	V. Vaidyanathan	Mumbai
43	USA	President - Donald Trump (New), Capital - Washington D.C.	Washington D.C.
44	South Africa	President - Cyril Ramaphosa, Capital - Pretoria (Administrative)	Pretoria
45	Zimbabwe	President - Emmerson Mnangagwa, Capital - Harare	Harare
46	Australia (repeated)	President - Anthony Albanese, Capital - Canberra, Currency - Australian Dollar	Canberra
47	Switzerland	President - Viola Amherd, Capital - Bern	Bern
48	Botswana	President - Duma Boko (New Elected), Capital - Gaborone	Gaborone
49	Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd	MD - Ajay Yadav	New Delhi
50	Druk Green Power Corporation Ltd (DGPC)	Dasho Chhewang Rinzin - Managing Director	Thimpu, Bhutan
51	Tata Power	Mr. Praveer Sinha - MD	Mumbai
52	All India Institute of Ayurveda	Head Office - Delhi	Delhi
53	Sangeet Natak Akademi	Shri Raju Das - Secretary	-
54	UNFCCC	Mr. Simon Stiell - Executive Secretary	Bonn, Germany
55	United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)	Zura Pololikashvili - Secretary General	-
56	Coal India Limited (CIL)	PM Prasad - Chairman and MD	Kolkata, West Bengal
57	Asian Cricket Council	-	Colombo, Sri Lanka
58	FIFA	President - Jay Shah	-





Sr. No	Organization/Banks/Country/State/UTs	Static Details	HQ
59	EPFO (Employees Provident Fund Organization)	Central Provident Fund Commissioner - Neelam Shami Rao	New Delhi
60	SBI	Chairman - Challa Sreenivasalu Shetty	Mumbai
61	RBI	Governor - Shashikant Das	Mumbai
62	Karnataka Bank	MD - Mr. Srikrishnan	Karnataka
63	World Bank	President - Ajay Banga	Washington D.C.
64	SEBI	Chairman - Madhabi Puri Buch	Mumbai
65	Reliance Capital	Chairman - Anil Ambani	Mumbai
66	CAG (Comptroller and Auditor General of India)	Sanjay Murthy	-
67	ISRO	Chairman - S. Somnath	Bengaluru
68	NASA	Chairman - Bill Nelson	Washington, D.C.
69	ASA	Chairman - Enrico Palermo	Adelaide
70	Space X	Chairman - Elon Musk	Texas
71	Saudi Arabia	Head of State - King Salman	Riyadh
72	Italy	PM - Giorgia Meloni	Rome
73	Spain	PM - Pedro Sanchez	Madrid
74	Australia	PM - Anthony Albanese	Canberra
75	Azerbaijan	President - Ilham Aliyev	Baku
76	Armenia	President - Vahagn Khachaturyan	Yerevan
77	Brazil	President - Lula Da Silva	Brasilia
78	Niger	President - Abdourahamane Tchiani	Niamey
79	Guyana	President - Irfaan Ali	Georgetown
80	Dominica	President - Sylvanie Burton	Roseau
81	Tamil Nadu	Governor - R. N. Ravi, CM - Thiru M.K.Stalin	Chennai
82	Telangana	Governor - Shri Jushnu Dev Varma, CM - Revanth Reddy	Hyderabad
83	Nagaland	Governor - Shri La Ganesan, CM - Neiphiu Rio	Kohima
84	Bihar	Governor - Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, CM - Nitish Kumar	Patna
85	Minister of Rural Development	Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan	-
86	Minister of Jal Shakti	C.R. Patil	-
87	NADA (National Anti Doping Agency)	-	Delhi
88	CII (Confederation of Indian Industry)	President - Sanjiv Puri	-
89	CCI (Competition Commission of India)	Chairperson - Ravneet Kaur	-
90	SBI	Chairman - Challa Sreenivasulu Setty	Mumbai
91	PNB	Chairman - Shri K G Ananthkrishnan	New Delhi
92	RBI	Governor - Shashikant Das	Mumbai
93	ADB (Asian Development Bank)	President - Masatsugu Asakawa	Manila, Philippines
94	ISRO	Chairman - S. Somnath	Bengaluru
95	ICG (Indian Coast Guard)	DG - Vice Admiral Paramesh Sivamani	-
96	Switzerland	President - Vila Amherd	Bern





Sr. No	Organization/Banks/Country/State/UTs	Static Details	HQ
97	Iceland	President - Halla Tomosdottir	Reykjavik
98	Norway	PM - Jonas Gahr Store	Oslo
99	Uruguay	President - Yamandu Orsi	Montevideo
100	Bosnia and Herzegovina	President - Nermin Niksic	Sarajevo
101	Sri Lanka	President - Anura Kumara Dissanayake	Colombo
102	Gujarat	Governor - Acharya Devvrat, CM - Bhupendra Patel	Gandhinagar
103	Nagaland	Governor - Shri La Ganesan, CM - Neiphiu Rio	Kohima
104	Uttar Pradesh	Governor - Anandi Ben Patel, CM - Yogi Adityanath	Lucknow
105	Haryana	Governor - Bandaru Dattatraya, CM - Nayab Singh Saini	Chandigarh
106	Andhra Pradesh	Governor - S. Abdul Nazeer, CM - Chandra Babu Naidu	Amaravati
107	Jharkhand	Governor - Santosh Gangwar, CM - Hemant Soren	Ranchi

